

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

ISSUES FACING YOUNG PEOPLE TODAY

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 1998

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to have printed in the RECORD these statements by high school students from my home state of Vermont, who were speaking at my recent town meeting on issues facing young people today. I am asking that you please insert these statements in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD as I believe that the views of these young people will benefit my colleagues.

STATEMENT BY TREVOR GINGRAS, MIRANDA GIRVAN, JESSICA BORDEAUX AND APRIL HATHAWAY REGARDING TEEN SMOKING

TREVOR GINGRAS: We interviewed teenagers to see how many did and didn't smoke. Out of the ten, eight of the teens smoked. Teenage smoking rates go higher and higher each year. They start at a young age and get addicted to it. Some teenagers got started by getting pressured by their friends, some started smoking because they think it is cool, and some teenagers smoke because their parents smoke and they figure it is okay.

Teens get their cigarettes by either their parents or someone who is old enough to buy them. No law or even raising the price of the cigarettes are going to stop the teens from smoking. Teens save their money for gas for their cars and to get cigarettes. There are many places where teens are allowed to smoke, so this doesn't help the issue any.

We also did a survey on what types of cigarettes teens smoke. These were the results: Marlboros, Camels, Newports and Parliaments.

Congressman SANDERS: Thank you.

STATEMENT BY SHAWN BRACKETT AND SID MESSICK REGARDING FEDERAL FUNDS FOR YOUTH PROGRAMS

SHAWN BRACKETT: Hello. My name is Shawn Brackett, and this is Sid Messick. We represent Youth Build Burlington. Youth Build Burlington is a unique program dedicated to helping out-of-school youth complete their education and prepare for the world of work. Youth Build does this by providing alternating weeks of academic instruction and on-the-job training in construction skills. We also perform community service by building or renovating affordable housing units and providing our help to local agencies.

For example, Youth Build provided assistance during the Montgomery flood cleanup efforts last summer, and during the ice storm cleanup this January. We are currently completing the construction of a new house on Hyde Street.

Currently, I am completing my high school diploma through Youth Build, and Sid is completing his GED requirements. Over the past ten months, Youth Build has helped four of us earn our high school diplomas and eleven of us have already earned our GEDs. Youth Build has provided us with a supportive atmosphere. It has made counseling available and instruction in small groups or

on an individual basis. Without Youth Build, none of us would have completed our education or learned the work readiness skills that we need to move ahead in our lives. If this program is not funded in the future, it will be an immeasurable loss to the youth and the community.

SID MESSICK: What Youth Build has done for me has changed my life a lot. I was in trouble a lot all the time. So I decided to go back to school, because my probation officer said Youth Build would be a good program. So I just about have my GED completed, and my construction certificate.

The amount that it cost for one Youth Build student for one year is \$20,000. We do activities like volunteer work also. Like the ice storm, we helped like elderly people clean up their yard and whatnot. We do like activities, like at the Racket's Edge. We are trying to set up one to go to Camp Abanaki.

That is pretty much it, but it has done a lot for me.

Congressman SANDERS: Shawn?

SHAWN BRACKETT: For people that are looking for places to go for the youth in the community, I think Youth Build is the best program for a lot of kids that will jump at the opportunity, if they research it, with Youth Build. It is the ideal program for this community.

Congressman SANDERS: Thank you very, very much. That was an excellent presentation.

STATEMENT BY ANDREW JASPERSOHN, HEATHER COOK, DEBBIE COLE AND ALEXIS OUSTINOFF REGARDING ISSUES

ANDREW JASPERSOHN: Thank you Congressman Sanders, distinguished panel members. My name is Andrew Jaspersohn. I am a senior at Lamoille Union High School in Hyde Park, Vermont. I am also a product of school overcrowding. From grades one through six, I attended an elementary school, Johnson Elementary, that has some 375 students in a turn-of-the-century building meant for fewer than 300. At Lamoille Union High School, my student life in overcrowded conditions has continued. I have taken math classes with as many as 30 students in a classroom designed for fewer than 25. I witnessed teachers teaching in hallways, closets and stairwells, and have seen one of Lamoille's finest teachers, Mark Gilbertson, who is also a member of 1990 U.S. winter Olympic ski team, pushing a grocery cart full of the teaching materials through the crowded hallways of our school for want of a permanent classroom.

Congressman Sanders, I have managed to have a decent high school education despite overcrowded conditions, but I wonder, sir, how much better that education might have been given more space. I also wonder about those students, many of them friends of mine, who dropped out of school early, who, in effect, fell through the cracks of our overcrowded infrastructure. Education takes time, but it also takes space.

DEBBIE COLE: As a student at Lamoille Union, I have been overall satisfied by my education, but continually frustrated by the limited opportunities. As a result of overcrowding and underfunding, there is a lot that my school has not been able to offer me.

The beginning of ever semester finds me in the guidance office pleading for more classes and less study halls. Usually, I end up pursuing the list of courses offered and at what

times, and rearranging my own schedule. In this way, I have incorporated woodworking, cooking and creative writing into my schedule, usually with the help of my counselor pulling strings to get me into an already full class. By second semester, senior year, I was left with 18 out of 40 periods per week as study halls, almost 50 percent. Two of the classes were only being taken to fill time because that was all that was available. They held no real interest to me. The other classes that I would not have minded taking were only offered during the periods when I had my essential courses.

The one thing my school could offer was an honors program which allowed me to take up to two courses at Johnson State College for \$50 apiece. I took advantage of this, and now have two college credits that are transferable. However, by the time I paid for the classes, the fees and the books, the cost was up to \$150 per class, not to mention I needed my own transportation. This was a valuable alternative, but not an ideal one for many people.

Students should have alternatives within the school which could be provided by more space and more funding. I would have much preferred to take other high school classes than to be removed from the high school environment for over half the day. With more space and more teachers, more classes could be offered, not to mention the current class size would decrease, making all the courses more effective. Space and money are also key aspects to incorporating satellite learning into the school systems.

Students should have more options within their schools. They should be completely satisfied by their high school careers, based solely on the offerings of their schools, and not have to search elsewhere, if they don't choose to.

ALEXIS OUSTINOFF: There always has been a greater demand for tax dollars than will ever be available. However, a look at the news on any given day sends warning signals that we need to deal with the youths of this country.

By doing this, many problems may be prevented in the future. The best place to deal with youth is in a school system, especially as the schools are forced to take on roles formerly left to the families. By spending money on the schools to upgrade facilities, install adequate technology, and make sure quality teaching is provided, we can only enhance the education, and also make school a better vehicle to help our youth and prevent outbreaks of violence that we have seen so much of lately.

Our proposed solution to these issues is that the Public School Modernization Act be passed. Until now, our district has been able to fund temporary fixes, such as our now decrepit modular classrooms, instead of projects that would not only accommodate our immediate needs but our future needs. The Public Schools Renewal Act would also improve education by providing grants and programs to help schools improve conditions and train teachers. Our school is not alone in this problem. Other states have been struggling with these problems of overcrowding for years. And what we would like to see is some of these acts actually passed into law.

Congressman SANDERS: Thank you very much.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

A TRIBUTE TO ALYCE LIVINGSTON

HON. GLENN POSHARD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 1998

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my constituent and dear friend, Mrs. Alyce J. Livingston of Decatur, Illinois who has recently passed. She was a devoted citizen and my condolences and best wishes go to her family and all who will miss her.

Alyce was born on July 19, 1934 in Paducah, Kentucky. She was a dedicated student, and her scholastic excellence throughout her years at Lincoln High and West Kentucky Vocational School led her to my district during the 1950's, where she attended Millikin University.

Alyce recognized the importance of providing quality child care service to Decatur's next generation. As founder and director of the Tiny Tots Nursery, she inspired and shaped our young children. In addition, Alyce was also a lab technician for the A.E. Stanley Manufacturing Company, where she provided nearly thirty years of service.

As a faithful community leader, Alyce spent her time helping the city of Decatur and increasing momentum in the Civil Rights struggle. She was a long time member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), where she served as an advisor and member of the Joe Slaw Civil Rights Awards Committee. Her strong beliefs in equality fostered her persistent efforts to build unity in Decatur. Furthermore, Alyce was a Decatur Township Trustee who committed five years to the city and was a member of the St. Peter's African Methodist Episcopal Church. She is survived by her husband of 40 years. Mr. David C. Livingston, President of the Illinois NAACP, and her two sons, Malcolm and David.

Mr. Speaker, citizens such as Alyce Livingston exemplify the undying devotion critical to community involvement. I will miss her dedication, her persistence, and most of all, her friendship. Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Mrs. Alyce J. Livingston whose dedication to her career, community, and her personal convictions had a profound impact on those who knew her, including myself. It has been an honor to have represented her in the United States Congress.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4059,
MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AP-
PROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 1998

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member rises to express his support for the conference report on H.R. 4059, the Military Construction Appropriations Act for 1999. This Member would like to again express a very special and sincere thanks to the Chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction, the distinguished gentleman from California [Mr. PACKARD], and also express appreciation to the ranking Democrat of the Sub-

committee, the distinguished gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. HEFNER], the Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, the distinguished gentleman from Louisiana [Mr. LIVINGSTON], and the Ranking Democrat of the Appropriations Committee, the distinguished gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. OBEY], along with the other Members of the Military Construction Subcommittee, and the full Committee for their efforts in approving the Nebraska National Guard Joint Army-Air Medical Training Facility located in Nebraska's 1st Congressional District, which this Member represents.

This new facility will be a unique cost saving military construction project as both Nebraska's Army and Air National Guard Units will provide resources jointly to fund the construction project. While this joint funding construction arrangement is unusual, and was initially bureaucratically challenged, it is the reasonable way to go, for a jointly used facility is by far the most cost-effective and economical use of taxpayer resources. Isn't it ironic that taking the most cost-effective approach in spending the taxpayers' money is not always the easiest bureaucratic course? This project will go a long way toward improving the quality of training that Army and Air National Guard health professionals will receive, and will also improve the quality of health care provided to Nebraska National Guard personnel. In conclusion, I again want to express my thanks to the National Guard Bureau, and the Subcommittee for assisting this Member in his effort to make this a joint, cost-effective project.

Mr. Speaker, this conference report appears to be carefully and necessarily frugally drafted to contain worthy military construction projects. Therefore, this Member also asks his colleagues to vote for the conference report on H.R. 4059.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. GEORGIANNA
SINGLETON

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 1998

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Georgianna Singleton on the occasion of her 101st birthday.

Georgianna Brewer Singleton was born on this date July 30 in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety seven. She is the daughter of the late George and Hester Brewer. Mrs. Singleton was educated in the public schools of Sumter county. She met and married the late Willie Singleton, also of Sumter. Their union was blessed with six children, five of whom are still living; Maggie, Willie, Jr., Hester, Addell, and Woodrow. One child Ezekiel is deceased. Mrs. Singleton also raised a younger brother.

Mrs. Singleton is a life-long member of St. Luke African Methodist Episcopal Church where for many years she sang on the gospel choir, served on the stewardess board, taught Sunday school, and participated in various other groups and organizations. Mrs. Singleton has received several awards for her dedication and outstanding service to her church and community.

Mrs. Singleton has always been an inspiration to her family and community. She can still thread a needle without the aid of glasses,

and continues to read the Bible daily. Hebrew 11:1, "Faith the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen," must be one of her favorite passages of scripture because no matter the situation, she always says, "Leave it to the Lord and he will work it out."

Mrs. Singleton has outlived all of her siblings, but continues to enjoy the love of family. In addition to her five living children, she has 15 grandchildren, 37 great grandchildren, and 5 great-great grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor this fine woman as she and her family celebrate her 101st birthday, and I ask that we all join in saluting her dedication to family, church, and community.

TRIBUTE TO ST. THOMAS AQUINAS
CHURCH IN KNOX, INDIANA, ON
THE OCCASION OF ITS 75TH AN-
NIVERSARY

HON. STEPHEN E. BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 1998

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to St. Thomas Aquinas Church of Knox, IN as it celebrates its 75th Anniversary. The church is commemorating this special year by hosting a variety of festivities each month.

A church of humble beginnings, the original church was purchased in 1911 by Father Joseph Abel who traveled to Knox for the occasional Sunday Mass. The church was officially recognized as a parish in 1923 and received its first resident pastor, Father John Lach. Father Lach performed the church's first baptism, marriage, and funeral before retiring in 1926.

St. Thomas Aquinas expanded in 1927 with the addition of its sanctuary and its sacristy under Father Charles Malay, the church's second pastor. As the United States emerged from the Depression, so too did the parish. Although St. Thomas Aquinas suffered through the Great Depression along with the rest of the country, the parish persevered through this trying time and entered a new era of growth led by Father Conrad Stoll. The church, led by the visions of Father Conrad A. Stoll, began a building fund for a new church in 1941. By 1953 it had raised enough funds to build both a new church building and a new school.

The new school was run by the Dominican Sisters and lay teachers. The Order left the school in 1962 to the devoted leadership of lay staff, the Principal, Mrs. Marie Martin, and the staff, Mrs. Anne Hindle, Mrs. Mary Jo Kennedy, and Mrs. Emily Brown who ran the school from September 1962 to June 1964 when the Sisters of St. Joseph arrived. The school provided an education for many children through love and dedication until it closed in 1983.

The parish continues to grow under the guidance of Monsignor Richard Zollinger, the current pastor of St. Thomas Aquinas. Its latest addition is a new rectory which was built in 1993.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate St. Thomas Aquinas Church on the celebration of its Diamond Anniversary, and thank its pastors, lay leaders, and parishioners for their witness and contribution to the Knox community. I wish the church many more long and prosperous years of worship and service to God.

DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4194) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes:

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the brownfields redevelopment initiative and the Frelinghuysen-Stokes-DeGette amendment which seeks to eliminate the bill's restrictions on the use of EPA funds for brownfields cleanups. The bill prohibits brownfields funds from being used by localities to set up a revolving loan fund program. In addition, the bill also prohibits brownfields funds from being used for research, technical assistance, education and community outreach.

As a lifelong resident of Pittsburgh, I have seen our region go through many changes. When I was growing up, we were a thriving industrial center. There were plenty of good jobs to be had. These jobs weren't glamorous, but they paid well and families in the region knew there was always going to be an opportunity for their children to earn a good living in the area.

About the time I went to college in the early and mid-70's, the economic dynamics began to change. The global competitiveness of U.S. heavy industry began to fade. Our domestic economic focus began to shift from manufacturing to the service industry. This meant hard times for older industrial areas in Pittsburgh. As a result, many of these industrial sites like Homestead, McKeesport, and Duquesne lie abandoned or under used.

I am proud of the brownfields initiative, as it provides much-needed economic stimulus without erecting a massive government program. Instead the program encourages public-private partnerships that can work efficiently to revitalize our economy. We need to make sure that the federal government is working with these private partnerships, not against it.

In my state, there are several programs that are designed to foster private-public partnerships and help turn brownfields into viable properties. For example the Industrial Sites Reuse Program and Infrastructure Development Program are both financing programs that are targeted to brownfields sites, in which Pennsylvania has their fair share.

In fact, many local volunteers, service organizations and non-profit groups in conjunction with community leaders in Pennsylvania have begun to volunteer their time and have started cleaning up these sites. In addition, local governments are working with private companies in offering them incentives, like tax credits, in order for them to move into these reclaimed brownfields. In Pennsylvania, these programs are gaining momentum and that is why it is crucial that we continue to fund this viable program.

We have one of the most important economic development tools in the brownfields program. The program authorizes money to be used for outreach, clean up, technical assistance and research that will stimulate and return these sites for industrial use. Once these sites are cleaned up, new businesses looking to relocate in our region will find it much more feasible and attractive.

As some of my colleagues will recall, in the early version of H.R. 2014, the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997, there was no language dealing with brownfields redevelopment nor expanding the number of Empowerment Zones. So I decided to lead a bipartisan effort to rally for this language to be inserted in the final version of H.R. 2014. Thanks to our hard work the brownfields funding and the Empowerment Zone program were expanded and now more communities can take advantage of these two programs.

A vote against the Frelinghuysen-Stokes-DeGette Amendment will discourage these partnerships and send our communities the wrong message. A vote for this Amendment will ensure our communities that the federal government is committed to reclaiming and utilizing our abandoned industrial sites. I urge my colleagues to vote yes on the Frelinghuysen-Stokes-DeGette Amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. CARLOS A. ROMERO-BARCELÓ

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4194) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes:

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Mr. Chairman, today, the House of Representatives is considering the VA-HUD appropriations bill. An amendment was presented—and defeated—on the floor of the House that would have prevented the Veterans Administration from implementing and administering the Veterans Equitable Resource Allocation System, commonly known as VERA.

I opposed this amendment because the American veterans in Puerto Rico deserve to be treated fairly and equitably. Our Nation has a moral obligation to fulfill our promises to the men and women who have patriotically defended our democracy and the very values that enable us to enjoy our freedom, liberties and rights. Puerto Rico already has one of the largest veterans populations nationwide. In the past we have been shortchanged in the allocation of resources; a failure that has discriminated against the very men and women who deserve our utmost respect.

As Congress continues to cut funding for veterans programs, we must look to the best

way to maximize the available resources so that all veterans nationwide are treated equally and fairly. This is what VERA does. This innovative VA program provides a more efficient and effective allocation of resources that considers workload and demand, promotes a better labor-patient mix and supports research and education funding per patient. The end result is a more equitable distribution of much needed funds that takes into account population shifts in the provision of quality health care to our Nation's veterans.

I salute my colleagues in the House of Representatives for considering the needs of American veterans and in particular their support for the veterans in Puerto Rico. It is our responsibility and duty to provide our veterans the quality care they have so valiantly earned in a prompt, respectful and courteous manner. We need to keep our promises.

A HUMAN RIGHTS PERSPECTIVE ON A VISIT TO ALGERIA AND EGYPT

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 1998

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, over the July recess, I traveled to Algeria and Egypt on official business to learn about the human rights problems in both countries.

In Algeria, I met with government officials, parliamentary leaders and representatives of non-government organizations. I also had the opportunity to visit the sites of a recent massacre to talk with individuals who lost loved ones to terrorism. Encouraging political reform, pluralism, rule of law and democracy may help bring an end to the conflict.

In Egypt, I met with government officials, Coptic Christians and others to discuss human rights abuses and the problems facing Christians living in Egypt.

I submit here the report of my trip to share with our colleagues.

REPORT OF A VISIT TO ALGERIA AND EGYPT: A HUMAN RIGHTS PERSPECTIVE

(This report provides details of my trip to northern Africa during the period July 5-10, 1998. This visit included a two-day stop in Algiers (July 6-8) followed by a two-day visit to Cairo (July 8-10). The relatively short traveling time between Algiers and Cairo afforded the opportunity for back-to-back visits. Algeria is rampant with terrorism which is largely unreported to the outside world. Nearby Cairo afforded the opportunity to meet with and see in their homeland Coptic Christians and to develop a broader perspective of human rights conditions there.)

I have, for several years, followed events in Algeria and have a growing concern about the terrible toll on human life that ongoing, unabated terrorism and the government's response to it are having in this violent land.

Algeria has deep roots in history. Saint Augustine (354-430), one of the greatest leaders of the early Christian Church and the author of Confessions, one of the first great autobiographies, was born in the city of Tagaste, near what is now Constantine, in the northeast corner of Algeria.

In 1815, a U.S. Naval Squadron under Captain Stephen Decatur attacked Algiers and forced its governor to sign a treaty banning piracy against American ships. Continuing piracy on European shipping led ultimately

to the French invasion of Algiers in 1830 and the occupation of Algeria which continued for more than 130 years until 1962.

During eight years of intense fighting with the French immediately before winning independence in 1962, Algeria paid a terrible price. It has been said that one million people were killed and two million lost their homes. An independent nation emerged with no infrastructure and no skilled labor force to keep the country running. Various experiments in governance followed. But it wasn't until the collapse of oil prices in the late 1980s on which Algeria's economy was largely based and the disappearance of Soviet influence and support that a movement toward democracy and a free-market economy took shape.

Beginning in 1989, legitimate opposition to the government in power emerged under a new constitution. Municipal elections were held in 1992 and the opposition Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) won a large majority. The military quickly intervened, canceled the elections, imposed a state of emergency and outlawed the FIS. The government justified its actions on two fronts: the need to prevent the FIS from overthrowing the government and imposing an Islamic state, and the existence of the FIS contravened a law on political parties stipulating that no party can be based upon religion.

The move toward democracy was put on hold. Leaders and members of FIS were targeted, imprisoned and punished by the government. In response, terrorist bands began to form and violence and killing in Algeria escalated. These bands continue to wreak fear and death on the country and its people. Several sources said that some of these Algerian terrorists were trained to fight in Afghanistan against the Soviet army and were called Mujahideen. As many as 70,000 people have been killed by terrorists since 1992. Many more have been injured and the toll continues to grow. Ten people were killed and 21 were injured in a terrorist bombing in Algiers the day we departed on July 8.

While in Algeria, we visited the tiny villages of Sidi Hamed and Sidi Rais near the town of Blida less than an hour's drive from Algiers. These villages are the sites of recent terrorist acts and massacres. Late on the night of January 10, 1998, terrorists attacked residents of Sid Hamed and killed 103 men, women and children and wounded many more. We visited a home at the center of the massacre and spoke with the owner who lost his wife and family in the raiding and burning that took place. We met with young children who lost parents and family to that night's terrorist attack. We visited a cemetery with 103 fresh graves.

The fear that was evident in Sidi Hamed was shared by virtually all the Algerians we met. The 2,000 to 4,000 terrorists estimated to be active in Algeria are holding hostage the entire country, its people and, to a significant degree, future progress and development.

Algerians have much on which to base this fear. Terrorist groups have threatened to "slash the throats of all apostates and their allies." They have certainly made good on these threats. On May 14, 1997, for example, terrorists in the town of Douar Daoud slaughtered more than 30 residents including two infants, 15 other children and seven women. On April 16, 1997, bodies of four young girls were found outside the village of Chaib Mohammed. They had been raped before their throats were slit. During this same period, 18 people, mostly young men, were shot or hacked to death at a phony roadblock near Saida. The largest massacre took place in Sidi Rias on August 28, 1987, when up to 300 people, many of them women and children and even small babies were killed.

About 100 more were injured. This pattern of terrorism, brutality and violence continues today.

We met with a number of Algerian government officials including the prime minister, a regional governor, the speaker of the lower house and senior members of the upper body of parliament, the foreign minister, representatives of most of the major political parties and factions. We also met with representatives of human rights and terrorism watch organizations, with representatives of the Algerian press, business, student and women's groups and with a number of terrorist victims who were personally injured and/or who lost close family members.

By most accounts, incidents of terrorism have measurably declined since about 1994-95. Still, there is more than enough terrorism to instill in the people an elevated level of fear, caution and reluctance to venture out, especially after dark. Terrorists have targeted specific groups, among them members of the press, Westerners, police and government officials and other high-profile individuals. Sometimes, fake roadblocks are established by terrorists dressed as police or army members and passersby are stopped and killed. This is most prevalent in the countryside away from Algiers.

The government and the army have been strongly criticized on two fronts. The first is for not responding quickly enough or with sufficient force to combat incidents of ongoing terrorism. While some of this criticism is justified, it is noted that Algeria has an armed force of 125,000 or less. Subtracting those in the navy and air force and the poorly equipped and trained conscripts, there are only about 25,000 regular soldiers in a country whose size approximates the United States east of the Mississippi River. Only about half of this number is mobilized at any time. It is also noteworthy that the army has been trained by and patterned after the former Soviet military, which is not known for rapid response to crises.

Criticism has also been leveled at the government for "extra-judicial" actions taken in response to terrorism or under circumstances attributed to terrorism. Frequent occasions were mentioned when government actions outside the rule of law occur. Reports have been made of several hundred apprehensions of individuals by government and police forces where the person taken was never again heard from and family members cannot learn what happened from the government.

The Algerian government has been urged to become more "transparent" in its efforts to combat terrorism and to discipline police and military forces to work within the rule of law. Progress in this area is slow and perhaps human rights training of military units should be provided.

Unemployment is high (above 20 percent) and there is a critical shortage of sufficient housing. Improvement in these areas could reduce the numbers of young people willing to turn to terrorism. Median age of the 30 million Algerian population is 15 years. There is also the age group hardest hit by high unemployment. Privatization of government-run industries (Air Algérie, the primary airline serving Algeria, is an example) would help. Many foreign investors are doubtless reluctant to move into Algeria with the level of terrorism that exists. Efforts to drive down the killings, bombings and other acts of terror would do the most to help.

The United States is presently Algeria's most important trading partner with 1998 exports to the U.S. projected to be \$2.2 billion (mostly hydrocarbon/petroleum industry). Imports from the U.S. in 1998 are predicted to be \$920 million. U.S. trade with Algeria is

expected to continue to increase. There are tremendous business opportunities there.

There is a lack of qualified outside observers to provide commentary and conscience to heavy-handed government activities in Algeria. The permanent presence of ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross), Amnesty International, and other human rights watch organizations would be helpful in curbing extra-legal behavior and in certifying legitimate forceful response as conditions improve. At a minimum, observers should be allowed to visit whenever they want and the government should cooperate with them.

The Algerian Parliament has recently passed legislation that imposes Arabic as the sole official language. This action resulted in strong protest by Berbers, who make up about 30 percent of Algeria's population. Algeria has not yet found the key to democratically balancing the legitimate concerns and interests of all its minority and citizens groups.

Still, with all the fear, terrorism and sometimes massacre that are part of each day, the Algerian people are going about their daily life, working, attending school and making a home as best they can with determination and resilience as they try to change their country. We were told that Algerian women strongly influence this balanced daily lifestyle.

From my observations while in Algeria, I offer the following recommendations:

1. Terrorism and violence taking place in Algeria should be condemned in the strongest terms by the U.S. and by all nations.
2. The government should be encouraged to invite ICRC, Amnesty International and other human rights organizations to Algeria on a permanent basis.
3. Efforts to increase international press coverage and ensure uncensored national press should be encouraged.
4. The U.S. should consider providing human rights training to Algerian military and police.
5. Ongoing labor training provided by the AFL-CIO to help union leaders cope with events as the economy is privatized should continue and perhaps increase.
6. Parliamentary exchange programs should be developed and encouraged to assist Algerian progress toward democracy. Exchange programs in other areas such as business, academia, government, medical and others should also be encouraged and supported.

7. Assistance to and education about the criminal justice system are required to strengthen safeguards and ensure that human rights are protected.

8. More housing must be constructed and help to develop the private ownership of homes is required. Organizations such as Fannie May can provide advice and information to assist in this effort.

In conclusion, I would add the comment that U.S. interests are extremely well served by our ambassador, Cameron R. Hume, and his able embassy staff who ensure we are effectively represented under always trying and sometimes dangerous conditions. They do an outstanding job and America is fortunate to have them there.

VISIT TO CAIRO

I also visited Cairo for about two days during this trip. I met with President Mubarak and others in the government, members of the Coptic Christian community, Muslims and representatives of various human rights action and assistance groups. I was not able to visit the upper Nile where many problems regarding Coptic Christians have been reported. This is an area I would like to visit in a future trip.

Areas of human rights and religious tolerance are slowly progressing although much more could be done. About one fourth of Egypt's 65 million population lives in Cairo and huge numbers live in abject poverty. We visited one of five "garbage cities" in Cairo. These are huge garbage dumps where hordes of the poorest live and eke out an existence by sorting, selling and using garbage under indescribably horrific conditions.

Under Egyptian law, a church cannot be built without approval of the president. Until recently, this restriction also applied to existing churches being allowed to make even the most minor repairs. Although the law remains unchanged, authority to allow repairs has now been delegated to the presidentially appointed governors. It is uncertain how successful this new delegation of authority will be.

President Mubarak said that the concept of discriminating against people is not the policy of Egypt. Many Copts with whom I spoke agreed that there is little if any systematic government persecution. Still, in the course of daily life, with virtually no important government or other positions filled by Coptic Christians, interpretation of laws and regulations, judgments between Copts and other Egyptians, the meting out of routine rulings and the normal conduct of business imposes hardships and unfairness on Copts. Clearly, there are difficulties being faced by Coptic Christians. Many would agree with the statement in an Australian report on Copts in Egypt that "although the government of Egypt would like to believe that keeping silent about the issues will make them go away, it's clear the government could do more to insure the Coptic minority is treated equally."

I would also like to thank the staff at the American Embassy and particularly Ms. Molly Phee who accompanied us during our stay in Cairo. Our Foreign Service corps does an exceptional job under trying and demanding conditions.

DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA B. KENNELLY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4194) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes:

Mrs. KENNELLY of Connecticut. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the Hilleary Amendment which would cut critical funding for the Housing Opportunities for People with Aids program. While I certainly understand the need to support our veterans, this amendment looks to cut funding from the wrong place. It would result in an approximately ten percent cut in a program that makes housing available to the over 100,000 veterans living with AIDS. The HOPWA program is the only federal housing program designed to address the housing crisis of the AIDS epidemic and it pro-

vides vital assistance to 52,000 individuals in 29 states. HOPWA is cost effective and provides needed care and housing for individuals who would otherwise be without a place to live.

Even with last year's increase in funding, Connecticut and the Hartford and New Haven areas actually saw a decrease of \$480,000 in funding because new areas became eligible for funds. A further cut in funding will make precious HOPWA dollars even more scarce particularly since seven new jurisdictions are expected to qualify for funds in fiscal year 1999.

Connecticut is a leader in AIDS housing, and at one time boasted the only statewide AIDS residence coalition in the nation. But even in a state that runs an effective AIDS housing program, the need for funding is great. In 1997, as many as 400 requests for housing in Connecticut were denied solely on the basis of the lack of space. The alternative for many of those denied housing is homelessness, something none of us should feel comfortable with.

Finally, let me talk about the cost of AIDS housing. The average cost of an acute care hospital bed for an AIDS patient is \$1,085 per day, while the cost of HOPWA community housing is far cheaper at a cost of only between \$55 to \$110 a day. In fact, HOPWA programs save an estimated \$47,000 per person per year on emergency medical expenses. The HOPWA program is cost-effective, while providing quality care for people living with AIDS.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment, and to support funding for this important housing program.

IN HONOR OF THE AMERICAN GI FORUM OF THE UNITED STATES

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 1998

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the American GI Forum of the United States, a truly outstanding organization that has served our Nation's veterans for fifty years. They are dedicated to addressing critical issues affecting veterans, with special emphasis on Hispanic American veterans and their families.

Hispanic Americans have always been willing to fight for America's freedom and to defend our peace. They know what it means to wear the uniform of our country and to be willing to bear any sacrifice to keep America free. The American GI Forum has helped to resolve problems of discrimination or inequality endured by Hispanic American veterans.

The American GI Forum is a national veterans family organization and was founded on March 26, 1948, in Corpus Christi, Texas by the late Dr. Hector P. Garcia, a medical doctor who was a veteran of World War II, and other Hispanic American veterans.

The American GI Forum has more than 500 chapters in the United States and Puerto Rico. Although the Forum is predominantly Hispanic, it is a fully interracial organization. The American GI Forum is made up of three separate groups—the Veterans Forum, the Women's Forum, and the Youth Forum.

The American GI Forum is the founding organization of the American GI Forum Hispanic Educational Foundation (HEF), a national educational and scholarship program. It was also the founding organization of the American GI Forum National Veterans Outreach Program, Inc. (NVOP), which is the Nation's premier nonprofit community based service provider of employment and training, economic development, housing, and social service programs.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in saluting the members of the American GI Forum. Their hard work and dedication for America's veterans have set an example for all of us, I congratulate the American GI Forum on their fiftieth anniversary and I wish them continued success in all their future endeavors.

1998 UNITED STATES SINGLES AND PAIRS LAWN BOWLS CHAMPIONSHIPS

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 1998

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring your attention to the 1998 United States Singles and Pairs Lawn Bowls Championship, sponsored by The American Lawn Bowling Association and The American Women's Lawn Bowls Association (ALBA/AWLBA), which will be held in Seattle, Washington, August 17–August 21, 1998.

The sport of lawn bowls, also known as bowling on the green, has been played throughout Europe in various forms since it was introduced by soldiers of the Roman empire. Similar to the games of bocce ball and curling, it was one of the first sports introduced to the New World. Records show that Williamsburg, Virginia had a bowling green as early as 1632, and that another green was built in 1670 at what is now Bowling Green, Virginia. The American Lawn Bowls Association, one of the oldest national sports federations in our country, was founded in 1915, and since 1918 has consistently sponsored a national championship. During the 1930's, the Works Progress Administration built greens at a number of public parks across the country, and the sport experienced a small boom. It declined after World War II, but began to rebound in the mid-1970's, and has gained considerable popularity in California and in areas of Florida, particularly around St. Petersburg.

Although lawn bowls has been thought of as a pastime primarily enjoyed by senior citizens, the game is beginning to attract more young players as a competitive sport and leisure activity. Over eight thousand people, some over 70 years old, are affiliated with ALBA/AWLBA, and compete in numerous lawn bowl clubs in every region of the country. ALBA/AWLBA is committed to promoting the benefits associated with the sport in hopes of expanding participation in lawn bowling. Studies have shown that for a variety of reasons, Americans young and old, are becoming more sedentary. Many health problems can be avoided by the inclusion of a regular regimen of exercise. The inclusion of a physical activity such as the game of lawn bowls, is essential for the maintenance of good health and mental spirits.

In my district, the 7th Congressional District of Washington, the Jefferson Park Lawn Bowls

Club is a leader in the national effort to involve youth in lawn bowling. According to Susan Parker, 1998 U.S. Championship Committee Co-Chair, the Jefferson Park Lawn Bowls Club is working to introduce lawn bowling as a lifetime physical activity to Metropolitan King County young people through schools, the Seattle Parks Department, and such youth organizations as Big Sisters and Boy Scouts. Pacific Northwest clubs also are enlisting senior citizen and retiree organizations in this intergenerational effort to promote lawn bowling.

I hope all my colleagues will join me in commending the efforts of ALBA/AWLBA to encourage a healthy lifestyle through sports such as lawn bowling. Mr. Speaker, I am confident all my colleagues join me in extending best wishes for a successful 1998 U.S. lawn bowling championship tournament in Seattle.

HONORING DAVID C. HUDAK OF
THE U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE
SERVICE

HON. TIM ROEMER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 1998

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, this Friday marks the retirement of a distinguished and dedicated public servant in my home State of Indiana. Mr. David C. Hudak is the Supervisor of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Office in Bloomington. His retirement caps a distinguished and dedicated career in Wildlife Biology spanning more than three decades.

Dave's resume has developed over the years to reflect his continual commitment to nature and the environment through wilderness conservation. He is a man who does not merely support these causes from the sidelines, but has led the effort by setting an example and working passionately to preserve the vulnerable balances of nature.

While Dave has been honored with many awards for his work, talent, and his ability to educate, the true measure of his accomplishments is the impact he has had on both the people he has worked with, and on the environment in the State of Indiana. I believe the real reward for Dave is the knowledge that he has made significant contributions to conservation in our country. His work will have a real and lasting impact, and for that we are grateful. Our state is a better place to live thanks to his efforts.

By being such a strong friend to nature, Dave Hudak has been a strong friend to Hoosiers. His dynamism and devotion will be missed. I ask everyone who has had the privilege to knowing him to join with me in wishing him the best.

IN HONOR OF WILLIAM BOYD
OWEN

HON. CHARLES H. TAYLOR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 1998

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, America is strong because of its millions of

citizens who work hard and provide futures for themselves and their families. They build professions, businesses, jobs, and they build strong communities through endless hours of service.

It's my privilege today to recognize one of those individuals who has been a leader in his profession, his community, and a respected and revered father and grandfather, William Boyd Owen.

Born in Dellwood, North Carolina on August 16, 1918, W. Boyd Owen was the youngest of three physician brothers in a medical family which spans several generations and includes his son, William B. Owen Jr., a Haywood County, North Carolina orthopedic surgeon.

Boyd attended Canton, North Carolina public schools before entering Wake Forest College in Wake Forest, North Carolina where he displayed many talents. Young Boyd played basketball, and played the saxophone and clarinet with an orchestra while in college. In 1939, he played for Wake Forest in the very first post season NCAA basketball tournament. After graduation, he entered the Wake Forest Medical School, later transferring to the University of Pennsylvania Medical School where he earned his medical degree at the age of twenty-three.

Dr. Owen interned at Philadelphia General Hospital, then entered the United States Army Medical Corps in 1943. He remained in the medical corps until 1946, attaining the rank of major. He served in Hawaii, the United States and the Philippines, and after leaving active duty, he remained in the inactive reserves for six years.

In 1946, he opened a general medical practice in Waynesville. In 1947 he "covered" the Canton practice of his older brother Dr. Charles Owen. Meanwhile his own practice grew until he built the present Owen-Smith Clinic in 1954 after being joined by Dr. A. Heyward Smith. In 1962 he was elected to the North Carolina Board of Medical Examiners, serving for six years including the last year as president.

Dr. Owen's career has spanned the time period when he could not get a new car because of war-time conditions and he was paid with chickens and wood, to present-day medicine which utilizes computers, lasers and high-tech surgical procedures. He is a member and founding fellow of the American Academy of Family Practice, life member of the North Carolina Medical Society and the North Carolina Academy of Family Practitioners.

Dr. Owen has been a member of the Wake Forest Board of Trustees since 1954, longer than any living member. He served on the Trustee Athletic Committee as chairman and was also on the Executive Committee. In 1991, Dr. Owen was made a life trustee. For two decades he belonged to the Wake Forest President's Club, and he worked as class agent for several medical classes. Dr. Owen was president of the Bowman Gray Medical School Alumni and earned a citation for distinguished service. In 1989, he chaired the Medical Center Board which encompasses the Bowman Gray School of Medicine of Wake Forest and the North Carolina Baptist Hospital in Winston-Salem.

Active in the First Baptist Church of Waynesville, Dr. Owen has served as deacon, trustee and chaired a variety of committees.

He has been a member and former president of the Lions Club, the Waynesville Chamber of Commerce, the "30 Club" and is now a member of the Rotary Club.

Dr. Owen recently retired after fifty-one years in active practice and resides in Waynesville. His wife of more than 50 years is the former Helen Bryan. Their four children are: Elizabeth Owen Taylor, William Boyd Owen, Jr., James Griffin Owen and Mary Owen Davis. All four children graduated from Wake Forest University as did his wife, Helen. Helen's father, D.B. Bryan, was Dean of Wake Forest College for 26 years. He is the proud grandfather of eleven grandchildren one of whom is now enrolled at Wake Forest University.

IN TRIBUTE

SPEECH OF

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 28, 1998

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of the 37th Congressional District of California, my family, my staff and the American people, I wish to express our most heartfelt condolences and sympathy to the wives, children and extended families of United States Capitol Police Detective John Gibson and Officer Jacob "J.J." Chestnut as we pay homage to the nobility of service they rendered and their ultimate sacrifice: their lives. I was deeply saddened to learn of the turn of events that led to this tragedy. Their sacrifice is a terrible reminder of the risk the men and women of the United States Capitol Police and all law enforcement personnel face on a daily basis in order to protect us and our ability to serve the American people.

Words are unable to capture the breadth and depth of the sorrow I and the members of my staff feel.

Yet, Friday's event is a reminder to those of us whose lives are consumed in the work of this building that real bonds of friendship, camaraderie and a sense of family can and do, indeed, develop. And, as in most families, sometimes we take one another for granted. The simple pleasantries we extend to one another can become all too routine and oftentimes, distracted by the burdens of the work we perform. Unfortunately, a tragedy like this one makes us aware of both the significance and the fragility of our relationships, our responsibilities and our friendships. Let their sacrifice not only serve as a reminder of the costs associated with duty, service and commitment, but let it also serve as a reminder of our own mortality and humanity.

I hope the circumstances surrounding the events on Friday, July 24, 1998 will serve as a reflection in our having known these fine officers, who were dedicated and committed, and the reality that much too often their ultimate form of service could be their lives. Their heroism and their duty to the People's House and to all of us is the epitome of patriotism. May God grant the families the strength to endure!

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR ALFRED E. ALQUIST

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 1998

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Senator Alfred E. Alquist, a distinguished former member of the California State Legislature and committed community leader, on the happy occasion of his ninetieth birthday. Senator Alquist served in the California Legislature for thirty-four years, representing his constituents in both the State Assembly and the State Senate.

Senator Alquist embodies the best of public service. Born August 2, 1908 in Memphis, Tennessee, he graduated from Southwestern University in Memphis and began serving our country as a navigation and meteorology instructor for the U.S. Army's Air-Sea Emergency Rescue Service during World War II.

Senator Alquist took an active role in politics as a participant in local and national Democratic Party affairs when he moved to California in 1947. His career in the California Legislature began in 1962 with his election to the State Assembly, where he served two terms. In 1966, he won a seat in the State Senate and was re-elected every time thereafter for the next two decades, a testament to his outstanding ability to represent the diverse needs and interests of his constituents.

Senator Alquist quickly earned a reputation for championing countless efforts to guarantee public safety and welfare for the people of California. The State Legislature passed more than forty earthquake safety bills penned by Senator Alquist during his terms of office, among them the measure which created the Seismic Safety Commission. He worked tirelessly to improve deadly highway conditions in his district and was instrumental in passing legislation to establish the Santa Clara County Transportation District in 1972.

As Chairman of the Senate Energy and Public Utilities Committee, he led the effort to promote conservation and the use of alternative energy sources. While holding the Chairmanship, he co-authored legislation to establish the California State Energy Commission. Not only did the Senator successfully ensure that environmental concerns were considered, but he also fought to improve California's education system, in one instance holding out as the lone vote against a tax rebate because he felt that the funds were sorely needed for schools. He also chaired the Senate Finance Committee, the Joint Legislative Budget Committee, and, after the Senate split the Senate Financing Committee into two separate committees, the Budget and Fiscal Review Committee.

Mr. Speaker, Senator Alquist's life is instructive to everyone who knows him. Because of his vision, his compassion, and his superior leadership, remarkable contributions have been made to our community and our country throughout his ninety years of life.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this noble man and wishing him the happiest of birthdays as he celebrates his ninetieth.

LOUISE MARGUEZ IS AN INSPIRATION TO US ALL

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 1998

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend, Louise Marquez, who on her own has transformed the community of Panorama City. Louise is proof that one person can make a difference—a huge difference. She is not only Marketing Director of the Panorama Mall, the commercial hub of the area, but she is also involved in outside activities involving literacy, gangs, youth sports, law enforcement and health care. It's no wonder that Louise is loved and admired by many.

Louise has turned the Panorama Mall into a valuable resource for the community. For several years she has sponsored a free tax assistance program for senior citizens and low-income families. I know the service is a huge success; at tax time people are constantly calling my District Office and asking for the number to the Panorama Mall. Louise also co-sponsors Government Day, an annual event at the Mall that brings together representatives from municipal, county, state and federal governments to provide much-needed information to the community.

Louise works tirelessly to improve the economy of Panorama City. The Mall is the site of numerous job fairs, as well as the Latin Business Expo, which brings together employers with prospective employees. I also know that the Mall's merchants hire many young people from the immediate area. The recent upsurge in the economic fortunes of Panorama City, and a corresponding drop in crime, can in part be credited to the efforts of Louise Marquez.

With all the work she does for the Mall, it amazes me that Louise is a member of nine Boards and sponsor of too many events and fund-raisers to mention here. She doesn't know the meaning of the word "stop." If there is another cause to champion, or group to support, you can be sure that Louise will get involved, especially when the focus is on youth. After all, Louise is herself the mother of three teen-agers.

In recent years, Louise has been battling cancer. Her grit and determination to keep working—and smiling—despite her condition is remarkable. I am inspired by her strength and her courage.

I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Louise Marquez, whose love of community and life-affirming spirit are shining examples for us all.

CONGRATULATING MR. STARR ON AVOIDING A CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS CONCERNING THE PRESIDENT'S TESTIMONY

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 1998

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, after unprecedented requests for testimony from Secret Service agents and lawyers and mothers, we recently had another request for testimony from Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr, this

time of the President himself. There were several reasons why the President would have been justified in viewing this request as another unfair abuse of Mr. Starr's powers. It is highly unusual for the target of a grand jury investigation to be subpoenaed to appear before a grand jury. It almost never happens and Department of Justice guidelines strongly discourage such a practice.

Never in the history of presidential investigations, from Teapot Dome to Watergate to Iran-Contra, has a prosecutor gone to such lengths to secure testimony from every conceivable quarter on a matter which appears to take on less and less significance as we learn more and more about it.

In addition, Mr. Starr, who is still under investigation for possible grand jury leaks by Judge Johnson, the D.C. Bar Association and, potentially, the Department of Justice, is seeking President Clinton's testimony even before other investigations have reached their conclusion. Notwithstanding grave doubts about the fairness of Mr. Starr's investigation, the President has agreed to appear for questioning on August 17, 1998. Apparently, Mr. Starr has offered some guarantee that the questioning will not become an unlimited "fishing expedition," as some of Mr. Starr's other activities have been previously described by a federal judge.

It was very important that Mr. Starr offer some assurance that he was engaged in legitimate fact-finding and not a partisan attempt to embarrass this President. After all, this is the same independent counsel who forced First Lady Clinton to personally appear before a D.C. grand jury in the federal courthouse here over two years ago to testify about her work as an attorney while still in private practice in Arkansas. That was also unprecedented and apparently designed to embarrass the Clintons. Since then, of course, nothing appears to have come of the whole Whitewater investigation.

Mr. Starr's recent agreement to limit conditions of the President's testimony was entirely appropriate because to do otherwise would have been a transparent attempt to embarrass the President. If these negotiations had broken down in a legal dispute over the power of this particular independent counsel to call a President before a grand jury under conditions dictated by the independent counsel, then Mr. Starr would have been responsible for creating a wholly unnecessary constitutional crisis.

I commend the Independent Counsel for the flexibility he displayed in reaching an agreement with the President's counsel. We will also be watching closely to ensure that details about the President's deposition are not mysteriously leaked to the news media.

IN MEMORY OF MRS. IRENE NORWOOD

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 1998

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I am saddened to note the passing of Mrs. Irene Norwood, an ordinary woman from my community who did extraordinary things.

Mrs. Norwood was a wife, grandmother, avid churchgoer, community leader, and member of the South Austin Coalition Community

Council where she rose to prominence as the utilities spokesperson.

Mrs. Norwood was an inspiration to thousands of people who knew her, saw her on television or heard her on the news. Mrs. Norwood became ill and reached the point where she could not walk and often would come to meetings and functions in a wheelchair. Her motto was, she might give out, but would never give up.

Well, she finally gave in and gave out and is now gone to a new community where she remains a premier activist. I can hear her now calling the heaven to order.

HAPPY 50TH ANNIVERSARY TO ALEXANDER AND LILLIAN JOZWIAK

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 1998

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute a couple who have endured the test of time. On July 31, Alexander and Lillian Jozwiak are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary.

Both born to Polish immigrant parents, they met at a Halloween dinner dance in Flint in 1947. Soon after, they fell in love and Alexander proposed to Lillian at Christmas. They made a commitment to spend their lives together—a commitment they have taken very seriously. On July 31, 1948, they were married at All Saints Catholic Church in Flint by Father S. Bortnowski. The best man was Jerome "Harry" Jozwiak and the maid of honor Jeanette Szacki.

Shortly after the wedding, the couple moved to Frankenmuth, Michigan. They moved again to Flint before settling in my hometown of Bay City to raise their family. Alexander and Lillian are devoted to their family and instilled strong values in their three children, Kathleen Janell, Gerard Joseph and Linette Marie. The couple is now retired in Colonial Heights, Virginia, where they enjoy watching their three and one-half year old grandson, Thomas Emmanuel Burnette II, grow with the same values they instilled in their children. Today it is Thomas' perpetual amount of energy that is responsible for preserving their youth.

Alexander and Lillian are not only dedicated to each other and their family, but also dedicated to their country. Alexander enlisted in the Army and served in World War II. They are symbols to the American people that commitment and strong family values can produce many blessings and much happiness.

Mr. Speaker, though the road of life has been long and laborious, the fortitude, love and perseverance of this couple have made a lasting mark on the future generations. I urge you and all our colleagues to join me in extending our best wishes for many more happy years together. May God's continued blessing be upon them.

IN MEMORY OF MEDFORD R. PARK

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 1998

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it is with great regret that I inform the Members of the House

on the passing of Medford R. Park, a former Executive Director of the Wentworth Foundation, on July 23, 1998.

Mr. Park, a native of Lexington, Missouri, graduated from Wentworth Military Academy, and later attended the University of Missouri-Columbia. While at the University, Med participated in various extracurricular activities and was a four-year varsity letterman in basketball. After graduating from Mizzou with a bachelor's of Science in Education in 1955, Med joined the St. Louis Hawks of the National Basketball Association. Med played for the Hawks from 1955 through 1959—including the 1958 national championship team. He concluded his NBA Career with the Cincinnati Royals from 1959 to 1960. Med coached the Battle Creek Braves of the Northern Professional League from 1966 to 1968.

Mr. Park was the Executive Director of the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame in Macon, Georgia, and served as the Executive Director of the John Q. Hammons Missouri Sports Hall of Fame in Springfield, Missouri.

Mr. Park is survived by his wife Nancy, three sons, and one sister.

Mr. Speaker, Medford Park was an inspiration in the Lexington community, and he will be greatly missed by all who knew him. I am certain that the Members of the House will join me in paying tribute to the life of this great Missourian.

DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. THOMAS C. SAWYER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4194) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes:

Mr. SAWYER. Mr. Chairman, here we go again.

I rise today in opposition to this bill because it fails to fund the AmeriCorps National Service program.

Despite the public's consistently strong support of AmeriCorps, critics in Congress consistently strive to eliminate this important program. So far, they have not succeeded.

Last year, this destructive idea took the form of a funding reduction amendment that passed the House by voice vote. Fortunately for America, the Senate rightly included full funding—in fact, increased funding—for the program in its version of the bill. The program was ultimately retained in the conference report but funded at 75% of the previous year.

Eliminating this program would be a tragedy for our country. The AmeriCorps program, which has had a long history of bipartisan support, has effectively demonstrated our nation's strong commitment to community service and higher education. The program has helped

more than 50 thousand young adults (1,844 in my state alone) earn trust awards to put towards college and has provided opportunities for seniors to remain active within their communities. Despite these achievements, some in this Congress continue to criticize.

Over the past few years, these critics have cited allegations of cost overruns and inefficiencies in the program. They have looked for every opportunity to criticize the program and, at the same time, criticize the President.

Early in the last Congress, the Oversight Subcommittee of the Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities held a series of hearings on the AmeriCorps program to address the concerns of its critics. As Ranking Member of that subcommittee at the time, I had the opportunity to investigate the allegations and to hear the truth about the progress that has been made to correct any problems.

I, too, was initially concerned about cost overruns, political abuses, and other teething problems with the AmeriCorps program. However, we learned at our first hearing that the Corporation for National Service, of which AmeriCorps is a part, has taken aggressive action to correct any problems. Where political activity was evident, AmeriCorps has cut off funding. In its first year, AmeriCorps also raised almost triple the amount dictated by law from non-Corporation sources.

The Corporation took additional steps to address the concerns of its critics. Former Senator Harris Wofford, now CEO of the Corporation for National Service, and Senator Charles Grassley announced a 10-point plan to reform the AmeriCorps program.

That bipartisan effort made clear, enforceable commitments to contain costs. It also resulted in an increase in the AmeriCorps private sector match from 25 to 33 percent of program costs. The 10-point plan also called for further steps to prohibit any kind of lobbying and to improve the grant review and evaluation process. AmeriCorps also agreed to expand its commitment to service and volunteerism. Finally, the 10-point plan called for increased collaboration with national non-profits, special scholarships to reward volunteerism, and efforts to increase occasional volunteerism nationwide.

Indeed, the Corporation heard the voices of its critics and has taken successful steps to cut its costs, leverage more volunteers, and improve its financial management.

Mr. Chairman, despite the widely-known successes of the program, reflected in its public support, some in Congress continue to attack its funding. That leads me to believe that the motives behind the criticism were never constructive, nor intended to produce a model government program. Instead, these critics' real goal was ultimately to defund a program that has been a target of theirs for years, no matter how well it is working today.

The President has announced that he will veto this bill—in large part because it zeroes out funding for this important effort. I urge my colleagues not to terminate an AmeriCorps that has provided many Americans with constructive options to prepare for the future and to better their communities through volunteering. AmeriCorps, through its own valuable projects and its example to the work of others, is making our nation a better place for everyone. Please, oppose this bill.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION
TO PROVIDE EQUITABLE TREAT-
MENT OF CERTAIN WOOL PROD-
UCTS

HON. AMO HOUGHTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 1998

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise, along with my colleague Representative LOUISE SLAUGHTER of Fairport, NY, to introduce a bill to correct a harmful competitive imbalance that has developed because of an aberration in our tariff schedule. This bill is a companion to the one recently introduced by the two Senators from New York, DANIEL PATRICK MOYNIHAN, AL D'AMATO along with Senator ARLEN SPECTER of Pennsylvania.

The Chicago based M. Wile & Co., produced fine quality suits in Dunkirk, NY. M. Wile recently closed down their Dunkirk operation; 200 employees were left out of work. The company's Buffalo office is also in danger because of this anomaly in the U.S. tariff schedule.

You may have heard of a company called Hickey-Freeman. Hickey-Freeman has produced fine quality suits in Rochester, NY, for nearly a century. Unfortunately, the U.S. tariff schedule now makes it difficult for Hickey-Freeman to produce such fine suits in the United States. Learbury, in Syracuse, NY, also imports high quality wool for use in their suits.

The fact is that companies like M. Wile, Hickey-Freeman, and Learbury must import very high quality wool fabric used to make men's and boy's suits. To do so, they pay a tariff of 31.7 percent. They compete with companies that import finished wool suits from a number of countries. If the imported suits are from Canada, the importers pay no tariff at all due to NAFTA regulations. I'm told that Canadian shipments of men's suits into the United States have gone from 0 to 1.5 million in the past 10 years.

If from Mexico, the tariff is 11 percent. If from other countries around the world, 20.2 percent. Domestic tailors are clearly at a disadvantage. The tariff structure forces an incentive to import finished suits from abroad, which takes critical jobs away from American suit manufacturers.

The results of this have been noticed in western and central New York, and Pennsylvania. In fact, production of fine suits in the United States has dropped by 40 percent, and the number of employees has been cut from 58,000 to around 30,000. These are high paying jobs that have been lost to this unfair tariff schedule.

This problem can be corrected before the entire industry is lost. This bill can be an important tool to correct the problem. It suspends these tariffs through December 31, 2004 on the highest grade of wool—called Super 90's—produced only in a limited way domestically. It would also reduce the tariffs for slightly lower grades of fabric—Super 70's and 80's—to 20.2 percent, which is the same as the tariff on finished wool suits other than those from Canada or Mexico which receive more favorable treatment under NAFTA.

Mr. Speaker, this bill corrects a critical problem for suit manufacturers such as M. Wile, Hickey-Freeman, and Learbury. I urge my colleagues to support this important effort to save American jobs.

TRIBUTE TO ADMIRAL WILLIAM R.
ANDERSON

HON. ED BRYANT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 1998

Mr. BRYANT. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, August 3, the day will mark the 40th anniversary of a great feat in U.S. Naval history when Columbia, TN resident and former Congressman, Adm. William R. Anderson, led a expedition to the Earth's polar ice cap.

William Robert Anderson was born on June 17, 1921, in Bakersville, TE. He attended Columbia Military Academy before entering the U.S. Naval Academy and graduated in the class of 1943. He is a graduate of the Submarine School and sailed on 11 war patrols during World War II. Anderson saw action in the Korean Theater from January to May 1954, aboard the U.S.S. *Wahoo* as commander.

On April 30, 1957, he took command of the U.S.S. *Nautilus*, the first atomic powered submarine. The *Nautilus* made the first voyage in history from the Pacific Ocean to the Atlantic Ocean by way of the North Pole.

The *Nautilus* departed Pearl Harbor, HI on July 23, 1958, under top secret orders to conduct "Operation Sunshine" the first crossing of the North Pole by a ship. At 11:15 p.m. on August 3, 1958, *Nautilus* second commanding officer, Commander William R. Anderson, announced to his crew "For the world, our country and the Navy—the North Pole." With 116 men aboard, the *Nautilus* had accomplished the impossible—reaching the geographic North Pole, 90 degrees north.

In July, 1962, following 3 years of Washington duty on the staffs of Adm. H.G. Rickover and three Secretaries of the Navy, he retired with 20 years service to enter politics. In 1963, he was named consultant to the late President John F. Kennedy for the National Service Corps. He was elected to the House of Representatives, 89th Congress, in November 1964.

Anderson served as a member of the House of Representatives from 1964 through 1970. His best known legislative achievement is his authorship and promotion of the law enforcement education bill. It is opened broad opportunities for specialized higher education in Police and Corrections careers.

DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4194) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes:

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Chairman, today I rise in opposition to the provision in H.R. 4194 which removes all funding from AmeriCorps, the national service program that allows people of all ages and backgrounds to earn help paying their higher education expenses in exchange for a year of community service. This four-year-old program has met with great success throughout America. Currently, more than 40,000 AmeriCorps members serve in over 600 programs across the country.

In my district, AmeriCorps volunteers have helped residents in distressed neighborhoods develop a vision for their neighborhoods block by block, and acquire the necessary resources to achieve that vision. The number of neighborhoods being served in the City Building Blocks program has increased by 40 percent thanks to AmeriCorps. One block served by an AmeriCorps volunteer has successfully closed two drug houses and a methamphetamine lab. These structures are now being renovated by the Community Development Corporation, and they will soon be occupied by new residents. If AmeriCorps funding is cut this block and many others like it will lose the support that AmeriCorps volunteers have provided.

Seniors for Schools is another successful AmeriCorps program in my district. Last year twenty AmeriCorps volunteers tutored 90 first, second, and third grade students in reading. At the beginning of the school year, these students were all below grade level in reading—45 percent of them were two grade levels behind. After one year of AmeriCorps volunteers' help, each and every one of these students now reads at or above grade level.

Gail Vessels oversees the Seniors for Schools program through the Kansas City YMCA, and she notes that AmeriCorps has "allowed us to tackle the hardest issues in this community." She indicates that it would just not be possible to have these programs without AmeriCorps funding. I urge all members of the House to continue AmeriCorps funding, so that programs like those I have mentioned will continue in their own districts as well.

AmeriCorps does more than rebuild communities. In my district, several AmeriCorps volunteers were actually able to leave welfare rolls because of AmeriCorps, and they were also able to go on to college, earn a degree, and gain employment—and thus stay off of welfare. These volunteers are often middle-aged, single parents who have been on welfare for several years. They have low self-esteem and not many skills. AmeriCorps allows them to gain valuable skills while serving their community. In addition, they earn an education award after one year of service that can be used to offset college or vocational training tuition costs. AmeriCorps has allowed one Kansas City volunteer Anna—a single parent who had been on welfare for many years—to earn her children's respect, attend college, and get off of welfare. Anna now works full time for a local neighborhood association.

I strongly oppose eliminating this valuable program and urge my colleagues to restore funding in the Conference Committee. AmeriCorps strengthens America. We must support proactive programs that help to build communities and give individuals the opportunity to better themselves through education and giving back to their communities.

INTRODUCTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL ANTI-BRIBERY AND FAIR COMPETITION ACT OF 1998

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 1998

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, since the introduction of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act in 1977, the U.S. has been firmly committed in its battle against international bribery and corruption. Unfortunately, our policies have left U.S. companies at a competitive disadvantage in the international environment, where they frequently lose commercial contracts to foreign firms willing to participate in bribery or other corruption. This situation has cost American companies billions of dollars in lost opportunities over the years.

Now, through the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions, signed in December 1997 by 33 countries including the United States, we have the opportunity to ensure that other signatory countries commit themselves to outlawing the use of bribery to influence officials or gain business abroad. The convention obligates signatory countries to enact domestic laws to combat foreign bribery.

Because the U.S. already has strong federal anti-bribery laws in place, the implementing legislation submitted by the administration seeks to close loopholes in the statute and otherwise strengthen the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act. Building upon the legislation submitted to Congress, Commerce Committee Chairman BLILEY and I today introduce the International Anti-Bribery and Fair Competition Act of 1998. I intend to hold hearings in the Subcommittee on Finance and Hazardous Materials, which I am honored to chair, when the Congress reconvenes in September.

The proposal requires several definitional adjustments to the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, including coverage of individuals as well as businesses, and officials of international organizations as well as other foreign officials. The bill expands the scope of proscribed activities to include payments to secure "any improper advantage." It also expands the jurisdiction of the law to cover the acts of U.S. citizens taking place wholly outside the United States.

While the amendments to U.S. law required by the convention are relatively modest, the changes required of other signatories will mean, in many cases, a radical departure from past practices. Such a change in attitudes towards corruption will be of enormous benefit to American firms seeking to do business abroad.

With the introduction of the International Anti-Bribery and Fair Competition Act, we have the opportunity to redress an imbalance and level the playing field for U.S. companies, giving them the chance to compete in a fair and corruption-free environment. These refinements are necessary to emphasize and reinforce America's view that bribery is not only morally reprehensible but that it ultimately creates a destabilized international trading climate.

If the U.S. is to continue to demonstrate its firm commitment to fair trading opportunities,

we need to take the lead and act as a model. Enactment of this legislation will represent and reflect America's determination to foster economic development and trade liberalization, as well as the promotion of democracy and democratic institutions.

DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. DEBBIE STABENOW

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4194) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes:

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment by my esteemed colleague TIM ROEMER, which would terminate the International Space Station. I am especially pleased to say that my support for the International Space Station is shared by my constituents as evidenced by letters I have received from them, and from the 2,000+ space enthusiasts that attended the Great Space Adventure events that I sponsored this past Spring.

The prospect of a permanent laboratory for researchers and scientists has students of all ages inspired—inspiration that will lead to more students pursuing math, science, engineering and medical careers. The International Space station also provides hope to the medical community and to patients afflicted with a variety of health conditions. Hope that research conducted in this permanent laboratory will yield new insights into human health and disease prevention and treatment, especially in the area of heart, lung, and kidney functions, cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis, hormonal disorders and immune system functions.

Already we have benefitted from the federal investments in the U.S. space program—and our investment in the International Space Station is no exception. For example: NASA developed a "cool suit" which is now helping to improve the quality of life of multiple sclerosis patients. NASA technology has produced a pacemaker that can be programmed from outside the body. NASA developed instruments to measure bone loss and bone density without penetrating the skin, which is now being used by hospitals.

NASA research has led to an implant for delivering insulin to diabetics that is only 3 inches across, providing more precise control of blood sugar levels and frees diabetics from the burden of daily insulin injections. NASA technology has led to the development of medical devices which are used to revitalize purposeful movement to muscles crippled by spinal cord injuries. As a result, paraplegics and quadriplegics can get a full cardiovascular workout equivalent to jogging three miles three times per week.

Technology from NASA also led to the development of an anti-shock garment for paramedic use which essentially reverses the effect of shock on the body's blood distribution and returns blood to the vital organs. This anti-shock garment has demonstrated effectiveness in treating shock from trauma induced by natural disasters or military actions, complications of pregnancy, ruptured internal organs, severe allergic reactions, brain injury and pediatric emergencies.

Even, telemedicine has benefitted from NASA expertise since adoption during the previous decades was slowed by high costs and technological shortcomings. Today, the technique is burgeoning under the impetus of snowballing advances in computer, video-conferencing and digital imaging technologies that offer greater health access to rural Americans along with greater efficiency in data transmission and display.

Mr. Chairman, these are but a few of the medical and health benefits that have come from our investments in the U.S. Space program, and I can not emphasize enough what value they have brought to the quality of life that so many of us have come to expect. It is because of this well documented success that I believe in the potential of the International Space Station. Joining me in recognizing the research potential of the Space Station are: the American Medical Association; the National Academy of Sciences; the National Research Council; the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology; the American Medical Women's Association; the Planetary Society; the National Foundation for Brain Research; and the Shering-Plough Research Institute.

Let me also share with you what Dr. Michael DeBakey, Chancellor and Chairman of the Department of Surgery at the Baylor College of Medicine says about the need for a permanent laboratory in space:

The Space Station is not a luxury any more than a medical research center at Baylor College of Medicine is a luxury . . . Present technology on the shuttle allows for stays in space of only about two weeks. We do not limit medical researchers to only a few hours in the laboratory and expect cures for cancer. We need much longer missions in space—in months to years—to obtain research results that may lead to the development of new knowledge and breakthroughs.

I agree with Dr. DeBakey's view; and because I believe the International Space Station has the potential to help my constituents with their health and quality of life in the long term, I urge my colleagues to oppose the Roemer amendment and to support the International Space Station.

DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 4194) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes:

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Chairman, for the past five years I have struggled with the Department of Housing and Urban Development to help the citizens of Houston. Houston is the fourth largest city—yet for a long time, they have lacked a full service HUD office. Out of the ten largest metropolitan areas, Houston was the only one without a fully serviceable HUD office.

Over the past five years I have worked with HUD and have received various verbal commitments and assurances that Houston would receive the necessary HUD staff and programs to be an effective agency to help the citizens of Houston. We've made some progress, but we still have a ways to go.

In past years, I have considered offering an amendment to this bill to require better HUD service for Houston residents. This year I will again try to work with the agency to ensure proper services for the city. This would include establishing an Office of Community Planning and Development, which would provide technical assistance and monitoring of state and local entities receiving federal funding to assist with elderly and disabled housing loans, CDBG, and funds for Houston's Enhanced Enterprise Community. This service is particularly important because of the city's growing population. Unfortunately, because there is no full service HUD office in the city, quality housing opportunities have not kept pace with the growth.

When I go back to my district and I talk with seniors, families and local officials, one of their greatest concerns is housing for the elderly. No one wants to see our elderly without shelter. An Office of Community Planning and Development would aid the citizens of Houston to gain access and administer funds to renovate, locate, and build elderly housing. This office also oversees funding and provides technical assistance to our Enhanced Enterprise Community.

HUD came up with a good idea to provide funds to local governments to help their economically disadvantaged areas through Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities.

Through tax breaks to businesses and access to federal funds and a plan drawn up by local communities, HUD hoped to revitalize disadvantaged areas. Houston has an Enhanced Enterprise Community, and we have access to two hundred million dollars to help revitalize parts of Houston. It would be a shame to see that money go to waste without proper support and assistance by HUD.

The nearest HUD office that offers this service is in Ft. Worth Texas, which is over two hundred miles away. My constituents have had to call to Ft. Worth to get someone from CPD to come down to Houston to check out a faulty foundation. Most of the time the response from Ft. Worth is that they don't have the money in their budget for travel or they have to wait for years for a response.

The citizens of Houston deserve better than having to call HUD in Ft. Worth, which is over 200 miles away, to get an inspector who can not travel because of budgetary constraints.

I still do not understand why the fourth largest city in the nation does not have all the HUD programs to serve its citizens.

When we first started looking into upgrading the Houston HUD field office, we received assurances from former Secretary Cisneros and now Secretary Cuomo that the Houston office would receive all available programs.

Without these offices who is going to monitor these programs, who is going to check for fraud, waste, and abuse. Who is going to help the citizens of Houston provide for their housing needs. If this critical change isn't made soon, I am concerned that more residents will be denied services they are entitled to.

While I am not offering an amendment this year, I am looking forward to working with the committee and administration to see that this issue can finally be resolved.

IN TRIBUTE

SPEECH OF

HON. JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 28, 1998

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, with a heavy heart I come before you today. On Friday, July 24, we lost two members of our congressional family: Capitol Police Officer Jacob J. Chestnut and Special Agent John Gibson.

Although tragic, these men died in service to their nation, in service to us. In the Gospel of John, Jesus says, "Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

With faith and trust in God and the help of family and friends the Chestnut and Gibson families will endure this seemingly unbearable time. I hope that the families of these two men—genuine American heroes—take comfort in knowing that their husbands, their fathers, their brothers, their sons, did not die in vain. By laying down their lives, these two men upheld our most cherished principles of liberty and democracy. I speak for all Americans when I say I am grateful for and honored by their courage, service and sacrifice.

While we mourn their death, we also celebrate the lives of Officer Chestnut and Special Agent Gibson. All Americans can rest assured that their freedom and the future of this great land remain intact because Officers Chestnut and Gibson died preserving liberty so that we may survive in freedom. We all are forever indebted to them.

On behalf of the people of the Second District of Illinois, I thank Officers Chestnut and Gibson for giving the ultimate sacrifice so that all Americans can sleep tonight under a security blanket of freedom. Their earthly lives may have drawn to a close, but their lives with God are eternal. Psalm 30 reminds us that "Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning."

YEAR 2000 PROBLEM

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 1998

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, the year 2000 will herald the start of a new millennium. How-

ever, if our country doesn't address the Year 2000 or Y2K technology problem, the millennium may begin with numerous disruptions. Meeting the challenges presented by the Year 2000 conversion will require the commitment of significant resources from both the public and private sectors. The federal government, in particular, must take a leadership role. The federal government is fixing its own systems and must facilitate private sector conversion.

Today Mr. HORN and Mrs. MORELLA have introduced the "Year 2000 Information Disclosure Act". I am cosponsoring this bipartisan legislation which will serve to encourage businesses to share information on solving the Y2K bug. This legislation protects from liability claims those who in good faith share information on solving the Y2K problem.

Without timely sharing of data on the Y2K fix, many small-to-medium size companies may not meet the deadline of Jan. 1, 2000. This could have serious repercussions for the economy. Small to medium size businesses who face disruptions from the Y2K bug may simply not make it because they may not be able to continue business. Many business sectors are dependent on each other. They exchange information electronically every day. For this reason, it's crucial to limit liability for sharing information on Y2K solutions.

Currently, the President's Council on Year 2000 Conversion has determined that concern over liability is impeding the transfer of information on the Y2K bug between companies. The "Year 2000 Information Disclosure Act" is of national importance. I encourage this body to act on this legislation as soon as possible.

DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4194) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes:

Ms. MCCARTHY. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to commend my colleagues for joining me in passing significant changes to the H.R. 4194, The Veterans Administration (VA)—Housing and Urban Development (HUD)—Independent Agencies Appropriations bill to remove restrictive language regarding the Brownfields initiative. Continued federal support and funding for this initiative is critical to the revitalization of our nation's urban core. In my district, Kansas City, Missouri, and our friends across the state line in Kansas City, Kansas, have joined to form a unique and innovative Brownfields partnership. This bi-state junction has not only received an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfields grant in 1996, but recently was designated one of only 16 cities in the nation to become a Showcase Community.

Redevelopment already has begun to revitalize our area. The Westside Business Park has been fighting for many years to hurdle the environmental constraints that had stunted its economic growth. Through the Brownfields Initiative the shackles have been broken and today more than \$14 million dollars in HUD Economic Development Initiative Money has been secured for assistance. Union Station built in 1914 is one of the city's greatest historical assets in need of rejuvenation for reuse as a transit, cultural, and commercial center. Yet \$4 million dollars in asbestos abatement must occur before the dream of restoration and reuse can become a reality. Without the Kansas City Brownfields Initiative this would not be possible.

These stories only mark the beginning. The resources needed to accomplish these tremendous tasks throughout the country can only be accessed if all the government agencies continue as a team to help the blighted abandoned warehouses, gas stations, and parking lots that face environmental hardships in order to turn into the schools, businesses, and recreational areas that our neighborhoods need and deserve.

I again applaud my colleagues for realizing it is necessary to assist the Brownfields Initiative for the sake of our nation's economic growth.

IN TRIBUTE

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 28, 1998

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Officer Jacob Chestnut and Detective John Gibson, and to honor the sacrifice they made for their country last Friday afternoon. These two dedicated Capitol Police force officers never hesitated for one second when faced with a situation where the lives of others were at risk. They had been trained for such an event and without pause sprang into action and fulfilled their duty.

These men are indeed heroes, in every sense of the word. But, they are ordinary men, with families and friends who mourn their passing. While we have seen in the last few days how dedicated they were to their jobs, we have also learned of how caring they were in their homes and neighborhoods. Testimony after testimony from friends and loved ones has shown us the high regard these men were held in their "civilian" lives. We have seen photos of the prized garden "J.J." kept and whose bounty he shared with all. We have learned that John Gibson kept an eye on his neighborhood and made sure all was right. For a police officer, constant vigilance is the way of life and both of these men lived that credo.

Friday was no exception. As the gunman burst into the Capitol Building through the detector, Officer Chestnut immediately knew trouble was at hand and without hesitation took action. Unfortunately, his assailant had a split second on him and had his gun pulled. Detective Gibson heard the gunshots and

knew immediately what the sound was. He was in the immediate vicinity of several staff members and he took action to put himself between them and the danger at hand. It ultimately took the lives of these two officers, but the lives of many others were spared because of the selfless acts by these two officers.

No words can comfort their families. No words can change the events of last Friday. No words can make these two men come walking through the door. Our words can only serve as some solace to their loved ones. Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson will long live in our consciousness, and in our hearts. Time may ease the sharpness of the pain of their loss, but, I say to their families, they will never be forgotten.

They are, now and forever, heroes of America's democracy.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4059, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AP- PROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 1998

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank my colleagues for their support of the Military Construction Appropriations Act. This is a bill for appropriations of military construction, family housing, and base realignment and closure for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999.

Our military is the hegemon of the globe. We boast of having the strongest fighting force in the world, yet our soldiers go home every evening to homes that are simply not acceptable or safe. I commend the members of this House for their dedication to the men and women in our Armed Services.

I believe this piece of legislation will make positive adjustments for the living conditions of our military personnel. I do understand that there is much more yet to do, however, I commend the Subcommittee for their outstanding efforts considering the means we were given to work with. I have personally seen the poor and unsafe living and working conditions we subject our soldiers to both here in the U.S. and abroad. The funds this House approved last night will go a long way in addressing many of these needs.

Mr. Speaker, this bill goes much deeper than just appropriating funds, this legislation will keep the people who protect and serve our country safe.

IN HONOR OF THE HULETT ORE UNLOADERS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 1998

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the important contribution that Hulett ore unloaders have made to mechanical engineering. This year marks the 100th anniversary

of the invention of the Hulett ore unloaders.

Hulett ore unloaders have played a significant role in the industrial history of Cleveland, Ohio. For over 40 years, men had to manually unload ore coming in from the Lake Superior region. After the first shipment in 1852, the men of Cleveland had to manually unload about two tons of ore. A 300 ton shipment could take a week to unload.

George Hulett's invention of the Hulett ore unloader revolutionized the shipping process of iron ore by making it a less timely and less costly process. It gave men a break from hard labor and allowed them to enhance their mechanical skills. These skills in turn made them more employable and more capable to take care of their families and provide them with the necessities of a good home and a decent education. Hulett ore unloaders fostered the developments of steel mills and factories throughout the Great Lakes region, creating jobs and industrial progress along the way.

This year the American Society of Mechanical Engineers will designate the last four Hulett ore unloaders as historical landmarks. On behalf of the Congress of the United States I stand today in recognition of George Hulett and his outstanding contribution to the engineering world.

IN TRIBUTE

SPEECH OF

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 28, 1998

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, many years ago a poet eulogized the sacrifice of hundreds of young men. The poet was Tennyson. The poem was the "Charge of the Light Brigade." In this famous verse, Tennyson gave answer to those who wondered why so many young men would give so much. "Theirs not to make reply," Tennyson explained. "Theirs not to reason why. Theirs but to do and die."

The price of freedom has never been cheap. But in America, there have always been those willing to meet the demand, bear the burden, and pay the price to keep our nation free.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that America will remain the land of the free only as long as it is the home of the brave. Andrew Jackson once said that one man with courage is a majority. Last Friday afternoon, not one but two courageous leaders formed a supermajority—and thereby saved the lives of others.

When the moment of crisis arose last week, Officer Jacob J. Chestnut and Detective John M. Gibson were not found wanting. They were there. They responded. And they gave their lives.

The thin blue line held firm last Friday—thanks to two heroes. Like the men of Tennyson's tribute, their sacrifice was complete. It was theirs to respond. It is ours to remember. Mr. Speaker, I hope America never forgets that freedom isn't free. And I know that the prayers and thoughts of every American are with the Chestnut and Gibson family.

May God Bless them. And May God Bless America.

TRIBUTE TO CARLOS ALBERTO
WAHNON DE CARVALHO VEIGA

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 1998

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to an outstanding leader and Head of State, Carlos Alberto Wahnon de Carvalho Veiga, the first democratically elected Prime Minister of the Republic of Cape Verde. This provocative and exciting leader has—with grace and integrity—steered his country through its transition from a one-party to a multi-party system. He is visiting the United States this week and is being honored by the California Legislature for his distinguished service to Cape Verdeans.

The accomplishments of Carlos Alberto Wahnon de Carvalho Veiga are due in no small part to his willingness to accept change and meet the challenges before him. His unwavering commitment to civil rights, civil liberties and freedom is testimony to his humanity and basic goodness. Veiga exemplifies the selflessness, patience and empathy characteristic of the best leaders of the world.

Carlos Alberto Wahnon de Carvalho Veiga's career spans a period of immense change for the Republic of Cape Verde. He earned his law degree at the "Universidade Classica de Lisboa" in 1971. From 1972 until 1974 he worked in Angola as the Registrar in the City of Bie. He then returned to Cape Verde in 1975 as the Public Prosecutor in Praia and was the Director General of Internal Administration until 1978. In 1980, Mr. Veiga was appointed Attorney General. In 1982, as a result of his opposition to state policies, he left government for private practice and was elected president of the Cape Verdean Bar Association. Veiga's vision for Cape Verde's democratic development at a time of political instability and upheaval became evident in 1985 when he joined Parliament and soon after set in motion vigorous efforts to democratize the Government and set the foundation for the creation of the Movement for Democracy (MPD), the present ruling party.

His positions in defense of democratic reforms are well known and respected by the majority of Capeverdeans. During his second term in the Parliament he became President of the MPD and soon led his party to a strong victory over the ruling party in the National Assembly. In 1991, he was elected Prime Minister. Carlos Alberto Wahnon de Carvalho Veiga represents the "spirit" of the Capeverdean people both on the ten island archipelago and across the world.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in saluting Prime Minister Carlos Alberto Wahnon de Carvalho Veiga, whose dedication to the causes in which he deeply believes is an inspiration to us all.

IN TRIBUTE

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRISTOPHER JOHN

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 28, 1998

Mr. JOHN. Mr. Speaker, I wish to join my colleagues today in honoring the selfless acts

of Detective Gibson and Private First Class Chestnut of the United States Capitol Police.

As we know, the U.S. Capitol is the people's house and the dedicated men and women of the United States Capitol Police guard this institution to protect the Members of Congress, their staff and millions of people who come to bear witness to the working of our democratic process. The Capitol is a living testament to the rights of our citizens and those that are sworn to guard it truly defend the rights of mankind.

On July 24, 1998, Officers Gibson and Chestnut made the ultimate sacrifice for these unalienable rights in courageously protecting the lives of tourists, staff and Members of Congress. We are forever indebted to these brave men. Had it not been for their heroic actions, many more innocent people could have been seriously injured or killed.

Mr. Speaker, I stand with my colleagues today to honor these men killed in the line of duty and to pay my condolences to their families. I vow to ensure their legacy of defending the people's house will live on for generations to come; symbolized by our continuing commitment to open the halls of democracy to the public. God Bless Officers Gibson and Chestnut for their memory will forever survive in the freedoms of our nation's Capitol.

THE COMMISSIONING OF THE
U.S.S. "HARRY S TRUMAN"

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 1998

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, July 25, 1998, I attended the commissioning of the U.S.S. *Harry S Truman*, CVN 75. It is our Navy's newest and most advanced nuclear aircraft carrier. It was a special day not only for me, but for Missouri and for the United States of America. This vessel bears the name of a fellow Missourian and family friend, and I feel that it is most fitting and appropriate that an aircraft carrier be named for this great man. Harry Truman provided heroic leadership and set a standard of personal accountability during a critical period in our nation's history. This son of rural Missouri possessed common sense and decency.

I share my remarks of that day with the Members of the House.

REMARKS OF CONGRESSMAN IKE SKELTON (D-MO) COMMISSIONING OF THE U.S.S. "HARRY S TRUMAN" JULY 25, 1998—NORFOLK, VA

THE TRUMAN-SKELTON CONNECTION

This may well be the largest gathering of Missourians outside our state since the inauguration of Harry S Truman as President on January 20, 1949, in Washington.

As a teenager, I was fortunate to accompany my father to that momentous event on the east front of the United States Capitol. President Truman began his inaugural address by saying, "I accept with humility the honor which the American people have conferred upon me." Were he with us today, I am convinced that President Truman would again be humbled by the honor of having this great naval ship named for him.

I am able to speak from a personal point of view because of the friendship that was formed some seventy years ago—on September 17, 1928, to be exact. The occasion was the dedication of the Pioneer Mother Statue—

the Madonna of the Trail—located in my hometown of Lexington, Missouri. Two speakers on the program met that day—the President of the National Old Trails Association and a representative of the Lexington American Legion Post. The former was County Court Judge Harry S. Truman, from nearby Jackson County, and the other was the young Lafayette County Prosecuting Attorney, Ike Skelton, my father. Because of the lasting friendship that was formed that day, my wife and I in later years came to know the genuinely nice person we call the "Man from Independence".

HARRY TRUMAN—THE MAN

My task today is to speak of the man—Harry S. Truman—and I direct my remarks especially to the sailors of this ship who will be known as "Truman sailors" from this day forward.

Truman once wrote, "Great men and women are assayed in future generations." So as this ship is commissioned in his name today, let us take measure of Truman the man and reflect on the traits of his character that allowed him to lead this great nation and be recognized as one of America's finest Presidents.

Harry Truman was bedrock American. He remains a role model for Americans of all ages and generations.

Underlying Truman's political accomplishments was the strength of his personal character. When faced with challenges, Truman put his shoulder to the task, used his Missouri good sense to "call it as he saw it", and forged ahead with the serious business at hand. And unlike those who assign blame to others, he believed in personal responsibility, as the sign on his desk and the motto of this ship declare—"The Buck Stops Here."

HARRY TRUMAN WAS DEVOTED TO HIS FAMILY

Harry Truman was a man of great devotion to his wife and lifelong sweetheart, Bess, and to his daughter, Margaret. The hundreds of letters exchanged by President and Mrs. Truman during their courtship and throughout their married life give testimony to their close relationship. And who can forget the letter written by a loving father who, coming to the defense of his daughter's vocal talents, threatened to blacken the eyes and break the nose of the music critic that published an unflattering review?

HARRY TRUMAN LOVED HIS COUNTRY

Harry Truman had high regard for the Armed Forces of our country, having served in combat during the First World War as an artillery battery commander and later rising to the rank of Colonel in the Army Reserve.

He loved America and the American people, ever keeping the public interest uppermost in his decisions.

He was an avid reader and student of history. My friend, the late Congressman Fred Schwengel, told me about meeting Senator Truman in 1935 while Schwengel was a college student in Missouri. Truman advised him that to be a good American, "... you should know your history." That story is consistent with my experience. I well remember taking a group of grade school students to visit the Truman Library in 1963, and though President Truman was of advanced age, he spoke to them in the library auditorium about American history and the Constitution. He wanted young people to learn as much as they could about America.

HARRY TRUMAN WAS POLITICALLY COURAGEOUS

Like the Presidents who came before and after him, Truman was burdened with the loneliness that goes along with being the Chief Executive. But President Truman did not shy away from difficult, often politically unpopular, decisions. He once said, "Do your duty and history will do you justice."

Today we applaud Truman's controversial decision to integrate the Armed Forces. In the face of opposition from military leaders and much of the American public, Truman had the courage to reject their arguments and do what he thought was right.

The state of the world prompted Truman to move away from America's established pattern of peacetime isolationism in order to assist European economic recovery through the Marshall Plan and to protect Western Europe under the umbrella of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Truman also had the courage to stand up to the communist aggression that marked the beginning of the Cold War. The Truman Doctrine made clear that the United States would not stand idly by in the face of communist aggression in Greece, Turkey, and elsewhere. Truman's commitment to the democratic rights of free people was clear as the U.S. provided essential supplies to the people of Berlin during the Soviet blockade and when Truman made the agonizing decision to use American troops to lead the United Nation's resistance to the communist invasion of South Korea. These actions earned the praise of British Prime Minister Winston Churchill who said to Truman, "You, more than any other man, have saved Western civilization."

HARRY TRUMAN WAS TRUE TO HIS PERSONAL BELIEFS AND VALUES

Truman learned about hard work and the value of a job well-done while growing up as a Missouri farm boy. His mother claimed that he plowed the straightest furrow of anyone in the community.

His handshake was firm, reflecting his farming background. His posture ever remained that of a soldier, and his early morning, fast-paced walks—in Washington and later in Independence—were legendary.

His honesty and personal integrity were never questioned. Though not a great orator, his speeches and conversations were direct and to the point.

He was a kind and compassionate man. At a campaign whistlestop in 1952, I saw him purposefully step down from the train to greet a severely disabled man who had struggled to the front of the crowd to catch a glimpse of President Truman.

His loyalty to his friends was enduring. While Vice President, he attended the funeral of Tom Pendergast, the disgraced Kansas City machine politician who had supported Truman early in his career. Truman, refusing to allow outside critics to weaken the bonds of his personal ties, attended the funeral and showed that he was a loyal friend to the end.

He was positive in nature and optimistic about the future.

Truman never forgot his Missouri roots, and reflected poet Rudyard Kipling's description of the man who could "... walk with kings" without losing "the common touch."

He was a man of determination. Prior to the 1948 Presidential election, pundits and pollsters had written off Harry Truman. Just before the election, I asked my father if President Truman had a chance to win. My Dad replied, "Ike, don't count Harry Truman out." Truman didn't let others convince him that his race for a term in his own right would fail. Instead, he took his message directly to the American people during his trademark whistlestop campaign tour. Then, as now, America loved a man with guts, and Truman's persistence was rewarded with a tremendous victory on election day.

Election night reports indicated a solid vote for Truman, but well-known radio commentator H.V. Kaltenborne repeatedly predicted, in his then familiar shrill voice, that Harry Truman would be defeated by Thomas

Dewey. Fortunately, Truman had a keen sense of humor. His wry wit was on display during 1949's inaugural events. While in Washington for the inauguration, I attended the Electoral Dinner. Although at the time my attention was a bit distracted by the beauty of Hollywood actress Joan Bondell, who was sitting at a table a few feet away from me, I will never forget President Truman's mocking impersonation of H.V. Kaltenborne, which brought down the house with laughter.

CHARGE TO THE SAILORS

My mere words today cannot do justice to President Harry S. Truman. But you sailors—you Truman sailors—who will serve aboard this ship named for him can do justice to his memory.

You can do your duty as if Harry Truman were looking over your shoulder. You can reflect all that was good and decent about him: take responsibility for your actions; be honest and direct in your dealings with others; humble in your demeanor; straight in your posture and brisk in your walk; thoughtful and considerate of others; loyal to your friends; devoted to your family; determined in your endeavors; know the history of our country; appreciate humor; proud of the uniform you wear; and love America.

From the earliest times, all sailors at sea have felt a sense of loneliness. On such occasions, I urge you to reflect on the loneliness of Harry Truman when he made momentous decisions while doing his duty for our country. During your lonely times, may the spirit of Harry Truman be an inspiration to you.

Keep in mind one more thought. President Truman liked to tell the story about the grave marker in Tombstone, Arizona, that read, "Here lies Jack Williams. He done his damndest." Missouri's President always strived to do just that—to do his damndest—that is, to do his best. So I charge you, Truman sailors, to heed the wisdom of that epitaph by doing your damndest. By doing so, your dedication will ensure that American freedom continues to shine like a polestar in the heavens.

It is now my pleasure to introduce the man who put his shoulder to the wheel by appointing and leading the Commissioning Committee—Missourians all—to the highly successful conclusion that we are witnessing on this occasion. I am proud to call him my friend. He is Trumanesque in his character and is a truly dedicated public servant—The Governor of our State of Missouri, the Honorable Mel Carnahan. At the conclusion of his remarks, he will pass the traditional long glass.

God bless.

THE EPA, TOBACCO AND PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 1998

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I call to my colleagues' attention this incisive and well-written column by George Will that in many ways captures the essence of what is going on at the EPA and throughout the environmental community. I would particularly direct my colleagues to the final paragraph in Mr. Will's column in which he quotes from an article by Dennis Prager in the *Weekly Standard* about "this assault on the idea of personal responsibility."

[From the Washington Post, July 30, 1998]

EPA'S CRUSADERS

(By George F. Will)

Before the tobacco bill was blown to rags and atoms by its supporters' overreaching, they substituted reiteration for reasoning. But then, for years now the debate about smoking has been distorted by vehement people who rarely suffer even temporary lapses into logic.

A new reason for skepticism about the evidence and motives of the anti-tobacco crusaders comes in a ruling by a federal judge in North Carolina concerning a 1993 report by the Environmental Protection Agency. EPA said secondhand smoke is a Class A carcinogen that causes 3,000 lung cancer deaths per year. The judge said:

"EPA publicly committed to a conclusion before research had begun; excluded industry by violating the [1986 Radon Gas and Indoor Air Quality Research] Act's procedural requirements; adjusted established procedure and scientific norms to validate the Agency's public conclusion; and aggressively utilized the Act's authority to disseminate findings to establish a de facto regulatory scheme intended to restrict Plaintiffs' products and to influence public opinion."

The judge charges EPA not just with bad science but with bad faith—with having "cherry picked its data." Granted, this is just one judge's opinion; EPA demurs; the litigation, already five years old, will churn on. Still, what disinterested persons consider the judge's conclusion implausible?

EPA's report came in 1993, when the infant Clinton administration was preparing to micro-manage the nation's health, and hence its behavior. Furthermore, do not all bureaucracies tend to try to maximize their missions? EPA's mission is to reduce environmental hazards. What kind of people are apt to be attracted to work in EPA? Those prone to acute anxieties about hazards. Is an agency apt to get increased appropriations and media attention by moderate assessments of hazards? What is the evidentiary value of the EPA defenders' assertion, in response to the judge, that in California (where smoking has been banned even in bars) the state EPA agrees that secondhand smoke is a serious carcinogen?

The anti-tobacco crusade was a money grab by government that, had the grab succeeded, would have acquired a dependence on a continuous high level of smoking to fund programs paid for by exactions from a legal industry selling a legal product to free people making foolish choices. The crusade's rationale was threefold: Secondhand smoke is deadly to nonsmokers; people start smoking because they, poor things, are putty in the hands of advertisers; smokers cannot stop because nicotine is too addictive.

The last rationale is inconvenienced by the fact that there are almost as many American ex-smokers as smokers. The assertion of the irresistible power of advertising is so condescending toward the supposedly malleable masses (notice, the people who assert the power of advertising never include themselves among the susceptible), the anti-tobacco crusade had to become a children's crusade. Hence the reiterated assertion that almost as many 6-year-olds—90 percent of them—recognize Joe Camel as recognize Mickey Mouse. This assertion, akin to EPA's "science," was based entirely on interviews with 23 Atlanta preschoolers. There has been no demonstration that advertising by tobacco brands increases tobacco consumption (rather than particular brands' market shares).

One mechanism of the money grab was to be a tax increase of up to \$1.50 per pack. However, John E. Calfee of the American Enterprise Institute, writing in the *Weekly*

Standard, notes that in the late 1970s, when teenage smoking declined nearly one-third, cigarette prices were declining about 15 percent. Given that teenage smokers smoke an average of only eight cigarettes a day, adding even a dime per smoke (\$2 per pack) would not deter them.

The 40 percent decline in smoking between 1975 and 1993 coincided with a public health campaign emphasizing individual responsibility for choices. Then came the Clinton administration and the ascendancy of victimology: Wicked corporations preying upon helpless individuals are responsible for individuals' behavior. Calfee says per capita cigarette consumption has barely declined since 1993.

Also in the Weekly Standard, Dennis Prager, a theologian and talk-show host, notes that the full apparatus of the modern state has been mobilized for "the largest public relations campaign in history teaching Americans this: If you smoke, you are in no way responsible for what happens to you. You are entirely a victim."

This assault on the idea of personal responsibility, Prager writes, further pollutes "a country that regularly teaches its citizens to blame others—government, ads, parents, schools, movies, genes, sugar, tobacco, alcohol, sexism, racism—for their poor decisions and problems." This assault, a result of the politics produced by a culture of irresponsibility, is an emblematic fruit of Clintonism.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMED FORCES

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 1998

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, as an Army brat, I rise in support of House Concurrent Resolution 294.

H. Con. Res. 294 is the resolution to recognize the 50th anniversary of the integration of the Armed Forces. The integration of the military was crucial to enhancing the quality of life not only for my family, but for the children of all Black military personnel.

I am proud of my father, Lt. Col. (retired) Garvin A. Tutt. He fought for this country during World War II as a member of the 92nd battalion in Italy. He also served the United States with honor in the subsequent Korean conflict. Yet, I vividly remember that back in the States, my dad, my mother, my sisters and myself could not eat in restaurants, could not attend movie theaters in town, could not drink out of water fountains except those marked "colored" only. However, after Executive Order 9981, military bases became "safe havens" where at least recreational facilities on base were open to African American families. Oftentimes, Ft. Bliss, in which my dad was stationed, was the only "Safe Haven" for my family.

As an adult, I have had the privilege to work for my predecessor, a former Marine and a great champion for justice, Congressman Ron Dellums. During my employment with Ron, I had the honor to work with great African American Heroes of the United States Armed Forces such as the Tuskegee airmen. They are loyal and dedicated Americans who sacrificed so much for their country, all the while suffering the degradation and humiliation of segregation.

Mr. Speaker, I do not think that Americans who were born after the civil rights movement realize the extent of the overt, divisive and punishing discrimination against a group of people, African Americans, the extent of their alienation from the rest of the people of the United States. The United States Armed Forces, more than any other body of its size, is an institution based on a strict set of explicit and implicit rules of behavior. The act and process of integration of the armed services is a political, social, and legal phenomenon that must be appreciated, recognized, praised, honored, and made known to all Americans, all people who are committed to a just and fair society.

When President Truman issued Executive Order 9981 in 1948, it was six years before Brown vs Board of Education and ten years before the nominal integration of some of our schools. Through his leadership, President Truman eradicated the legal structure of racism in our military force. The integration of the military had remarkable, positive consequences for American society. I believe that this is a story of success largely unknown to people outside of the Armed Forces. This is a story of the Government taking a series of steps to bring equality of access to all personnel. This work made training available; supported promotions, and allowed people to gain experience, which has led to the promotion of African American non-commissioned and commissioned officers. This is the successful story, still unfolding, of a major branch of the Government working to rid itself of the evils of racism and segregation.

50 years is not a long time, Mr. Speaker. The vestiges of racism and discrimination still exist. I hope that, as we commemorate the 50th anniversary of the integration of our Armed Forces, we recommit ourselves to ending bigotry in this country.

MR. STARR: NO OCTOBER
SURPRISE, PLEASE

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 1998

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, media reports this week suggest that Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr may be close to wrapping up his four year, forty million dollar investigation of the President. If that is true, I can only say that it's about time. Even my Republican colleagues in the Senate, Mr. ORRIN HATCH and Mr. ARLEN SPECTER, said this week that it is time for this investigation to come to a close.

While we have no way of knowing what action, if any, the Independent Counsel will take after he closes-up shop, one thing is for certain: if he intends to send any type of report to Congress, he should not do so before the mid-term elections.

Each day, countless talking heads spend hours on end speculating about who's up and who's down in this investigation of the President. But almost no time is spent on issues that really matter in this election, like health care reform, tobacco legislation, and campaign finance reform. While the talking heads base their opinions on gossip and supposed leaks, the issues that matter in people's lives get overlooked.

We have very few days left in this legislative session to get the people's work done, certainly not enough to consider or respond to anything that comes from the independent Counsel's office. If we were to receive a report before the upcoming elections, it could only be seen as an effort to influence the outcome of those contests.

Mr. Starr is supposed to be an independent prosecutor, but all too often since he took office in 1994, he has seemed to wear his politics on his sleeve. Mr. Starr has chosen to continue representing clients, including tobacco companies, whose interests are adverse to those of President Clinton. Many in the Republican party would like nothing better than to play politics with a report from the Independent Counsel. That is especially true because we need only eleven seats to take back the House of Representatives this fall. Not only would it be wrong for the Independent Counsel to provide fuel for that fire, it would undermine whatever integrity his investigation may retain.

If the Independent Counsel intends to send us a report, the right thing for him to do is to wait until the new Congress begins its work. Mr. Starr, for the good of our country, don't play politics with the timing of your investigation of the President. No October surprise, please.

H.R. 4162—THE REGULATORY INFORMATION PRESENTATION ACT

HON. HELEN CHENOWETH

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 1998

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, on June 25, 1998, I introduced H.R. 4162, a bill that will assist the American public, small business and anyone else interested in understanding how a decision was reached by the federal government when publishing regulations. My bill, entitled the "Regulatory Information Presentation Act," is presented to the Congress for comments and to bring the issue for debate.

In May of this year, the GAO released a report that points to the need for this legislation. The report, entitled "Regulatory Reform Agencies Could Improve Development, Documentation, and Clarity of Regulatory Economic Analyses," should be read by all of my colleagues.

Currently, the Administrative Procedure Act, provides only that a notice of proposed rule-making must include the legal authority for a rule and "either the terms or substance of the proposed rule and/or description of the subjects and issues involved." The provisions for final rule are even more general: They must "incorporate * * * a concise general statement of their basis and purpose."

The above APA provisions were adopted in 1966. Since then, there has been a demand for more rigorous analysis of proposed rules and increased "transparency" in the rule-making process. In addition, since 1981, several Presidents have uniformly required OMB and the Federal agencies to address certain analytical issues in rulemakings, and particularly in major regulatory actions. The current Executive Order is E.O., 12866, which was signed by President Clinton in September 1993. The previous Executive Order 12291, was signed by President Reagan in February

1981. During this time, it has become routine for agencies to address the issues covered in those Executive Orders; however, the public rulemaking notices published in the Federal Register often do not reflect clearly the agency's rationale for the rulemaking action, and the agency discussions of proposed and final rules, contained in the Federal Register "Preamble" to the substance of the rule, are highly inconsistent in format and depth of information, making it difficult for the public to understand the basis for the rule and how particular issues were addressed. Often, such information might exist, but it is not summarized in the Federal Register notice, but is contained in an agency docket or other files, where it is generally inaccessible to all but the most knowledgeable and Washington-based individuals. In other words, the current rulemaking information presentation system is not "user-friendly" for the public.

The proposed bill would address this matter by requiring the Office of the Federal Register to establish a uniform format for Federal agency rulemaking that would make clear how an agency addressed certain issues that are commonly addressed in rulemaking and which are covered in the regulatory Executive Order. If a particular issue was not relevant for an individual rulemaking, presumably the agency would simply put "not applicable" under that subject heading in the Federal Register notice.

This should not make more work for agencies; in fact, it should reduce effort for all concerned, particularly our citizens.

One provision would call for some additional effort, but it would be minimal. The "Public Notice" section of the proposed legislation (Sec. 4) would establish certain reporting requirements for agencies regarding number of rules promulgated and reviewed by OMB each year. The purpose of this is to allow Congress to track the level of regulatory activity from year to year.

I urge my colleagues and the American public to support this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO CARL S. SMITH

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 1998

Mr. GREEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reflect on the passing of an outstanding man, a legendary Houstonian, and a great Texan, Carl S. Smith, who died this week at the age of 89. Carl served 51 years as Harris County's Tax Assessor and Collector. Mr. Smith served the citizens of Harris County with distinction and honor.

Carl was a legend in Harris County politics. He was first appointed to the office by the Harris County Commissioners Court in 1947. The next year, he won election to the office and was re-elected 12 times.

Well liked and respected, Mr. Smith was revered by many of his employees. He was always known for insisting, from his staff, on unwavering courtesy to the public. He expected much of this staff, but he treated them kindly and with respect.

Carl had a real interest in helping all people. In 1952, he was the first Harris County official to promote an African-American employee to an important government position, a deputy

clerkship. In addition, he wrote the statewide property tax exemption for citizens over 65 that was later adopted as a constitutional amendment.

Carl's wife of 59 years, Dorothy DeArman Smith, died in 1991. They were parents of two daughters, Nancy Stewart and Pam Robinson, both of Houston.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all the Members of the House to join me in offering their gratitude for the hard work and dedication of Carl S. Smith.

AUTHORIZING VA HEALTH CARE FOR VETERANS EXPOSED TO NASOPHARYNGEAL RADIUM IRRADIATION THERAPY—H.R. 4367

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 1998

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to authorize the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide health care treatment to veterans exposed to Nasopharyngeal Radium Irradiation Therapy (NRIT) and to include these veterans in its Ionizing Radiation Registry (IRR) Program. Joining me as original co-sponsors of the bill in the House are Representatives BOB FILNER, COLLIN PETERSON, CORRINE BROWN, FRANK MASCARA, BARBARA LEE, LUIS GUTIERREZ, CIRO RODRIGUEZ, JULIA CARSON, NEIL ABERCROMBIE, and JOSEPH KENNEDY. The measure I am introducing today is similar to legislation submitted to Congress by the Administration and closely reflects S. 1822, as introduced by Senator SPECTER and cosponsored by most of the members of the Senate Veterans Affairs' Committee: Senators THURMOND, JEFFORDS, MURKOWSKI, ROCKEFELLER, AKAKA, WELLSTONE, LIEBERMAN, and MURRAY.

During the 1940's to the 1960's, many submariners and air crew members were occupationally exposed to NRIT to prevent ear injury. The Centers for Disease Control has estimated that as many as 20,000 service members may have received this treatment. Treatment was not limited to service members. This therapy was prevalent among civilians and was even used to treat children. Studies have found statistically significant associations between exposure to this therapy as a child and development of certain head and neck cancers. Associations between health outcomes and adult exposure to therapy are less clear, but poor recordkeeping on the use of this treatment may not allow new studies to determine definitive associations within the veteran population and previous studies have been flawed.

VA has noted that the high levels of exposure among treated individuals may call for special consideration of this population. Exposure to radiation during nasopharyngeal treatments was greater than the exposure of many of the veterans who already populate VA's IRR. Given the high incidence of exposure to this therapy for occupational purposes among the veteran population, the relatively high levels of exposure these individuals were subjected to, and the scientific evidence that exists, the Administration requested that Congress authorize these veterans' treatment in VA medical facilities. It is time to give the veterans who received NRIT treatments—many

of whom did so involuntarily—the benefit of the doubt. It is time to allow VA to treat them and the conditions it believes may be linked to this exposure and add them, along with other veterans who were exposed to far lower levels of radiation, to its registry. This is a responsible bill—and it's the right thing to do.

I urge my colleagues to sign on as a co-sponsor to this important legislation.

PATIENT PROTECTION ACT OF 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. HARRIS W. FAWELL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 24, 1998

Mr. FAWELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take some time to talk about some "good news" in the area of private health care. So often, the news media and Congress will tend to center on what's wrong with private health care and ignore the many good things that have happened, and are happening in private health care.

For instance, let us recognize that about 132 million people in America are getting their health care in the private market via employer provided health care under the ERISA statute! About 80 million of these people are receiving their health care from their employers under self-insured health plans, that is, where the employer is acting as their own insurance company, so to speak. Here, we are talking about fee for service plans, PPOs and variations of managed care. But under these self-insured plans, in general the employer does not pay "premiums" or transfer the obligation to pay benefits to an insurance company or HMO. Instead, the employer takes the place of the insurance company and may even contract directly with hospitals, doctors, other providers and health care networks. The market dynamics of these arrangements help to bring the price of health care down. Most of the large corporations in the United States use this method to supply health coverage to their employees. The remainder of the 132 million people who receive their employer provided health insurance from their employers do so under standard indemnity insurance policies, HMO contracts or other forms of fully-insured health insurance coverage purchased by their employers. With the exception of governmental plans, all private employer provided health coverage plans are under ERISA, although indemnity health insurance policies and HMO policies (referred to as "fully insured" coverage, as opposed to "self-insured" coverage) are subject to regulation by the states. That is, while the employer provided plan (i.e. the employer benefit plan consisting of medical care) is always under ERISA, in those instances where an employer buys an indemnity or HMO policy for his employees, the states control the issuance, make up and conditions of the policies themselves.

The important point, however is that the employers of America, under the ERISA statute are voluntarily providing health insurance coverage for their employees. There is no law requiring employers to finance health care, fully or partially, for their employees. ERISA, insofar as health care is concerned, has functioned over the years—especially in the area of self-insurance—with relatively little interference from either federal or state laws. It is

a rare oasis of freedom, representative of neither federal or state power. It is, rather, a relatively unique example of "people power", because it is the employer and the employees and unions, who collectively determine what kind of health care coverage should be provided for the employees, and how the plan will operate. The employer makes no profit from his involvement in health insurance as does the indemnity insurance company or HMO. It is a not-for-profit health insurance obligation that is assumed voluntarily by the employer. And, yes, state law is pre-empted, in general, insofar as the administration of an employee health benefit plan by an employer is concerned and that, I think, reflects the genius of the drafters of ERISA. As a result, employers have, over the years, been able to create lower cost and high quality health plans for their employees without having to readjust to the laws and regulations of the various states in which the employer's business may be involved or in which an employee may reside. Business people, of course, must be involved wherever the flow of their commerce may take them. They cannot very well be expected, in setting up health or pension programs for their employees, to readjust these programs to meet the laws, mandates, regulations price controls and standards of the various states which the flow of their commerce may take them. Indeed, it was this recognition which, in 1974, resulted in the creation of ERISA and the necessity for the uniformity of federal law relative to employee benefit program.

As a result, the administration of employer health benefit plans, under ERISA, was able to flower in a unique area of relative freedom, unimpeded by the regulation of the 50 states (with the exception of the states' regulations of health insurance policies per se). And, over the years after ERISA, the Congress has also restrained itself from micromanaging ERISA employer provided health care, although I will admit there are increasing signals that this era of enlightenment may be changing. Indeed in this environment employer provided health care—especially self-insured plans—have been eminently successful. The result has been the 132 million people who now secure private employer provided health care under ERISA. In addition, an estimated 33 million people also receive employer provided health care, outside of ERISA, from state and local governments as well as under the Federal Employee Health Benefit Act.

I find it troublesome, therefore, to hear so many of my colleagues talk with levity and disapproval of ERISA preemption, as though it stands as a mortal threat to states' rights. They seem totally unaware of the tremendous success of ERISA in motivating employers to provide health care and pensions for their employees. Rather than decry an alleged loss of "states' rights", I prefer to recognize that a major cause for the creation of our Nation's Constitution was the need for commerce to flow between the various states unimpeded by conflicting state taxes, laws, regulations and requirements. If Congress should now become hostile to ERISA and its preemption clause at this late date, and if employers are told that their employee benefit plans, including health care plans, can no longer flow with their commerce without meeting hundreds and thousands of conflicting state laws, taxes and regulations, then multiple millions of workers and their families will be in for a rude surprise as

employers began to opt out of their sponsorship of employee health care plans. That, indeed, would invite a political upheaval that would make the Medicare Catastrophic Health Insurance debate of a few years ago look like a passing inconvenience.

The need for broad preemption is clearly explained in testimony by Mr. Frank Cummings, then Senate Labor Committee Minority Counsel and an adviser to Senator Javits, who helped fashion a predecessor of the ERISA law. Speaking of the law prior to ERISA, he stated "The inherent limits of state jurisdiction made the system unworkable, and often did more harm than good. Technical problems in enforcing benefit rights were often unsurmountable under state laws. Those hurdles included: inability to achieve service of process on necessary parties outside the boundaries of a single state; choice-of-law uncertainty; insufficiency of the law of equity since the real decisions were made by persons who were not defined as 'fiduciaries' (other than the trustee). Interstate businesses could not comply with these laws separately, and yet benefit plans were most effective and efficient if they were company-wide in scope."

ERISA, in my view, was one of finest acts passed by the Congress. It was a law born ahead of its time! It is 21st Century thinking! It gave employers, employees and their representatives the freedom to self-insure and create not-for-profit health care plans for their workers and their families without being subjected to the endless varieties of state micro-management, mandates, price controls, and remedies which otherwise drive up the price of health insurance. And it has worked miraculously well for large and mid-sized employers who had the economies of size to opt for self-insurance. It allowed employers to break away from the monopoly of the regular indemnity insurance companies and HMOs and, on behalf of their employees, to bargain and discount the price of health care directly with both health care providers, including their networks, and insurance companies. Employers and employees were thus allowed to determine for themselves what the price, cost and terms of their health insurance would be, what would be covered, whether preventive care would be emphasized, ad infinitum. In short, they were given the right to operate their own health care plan free from domination of the states and their for-profit allies, the insurance companies and HMOs, and to do so by simply having the employers act as their own insurer or, if they got the right price, to contract with a regular indemnity insurance company after bartering down the price of insurance. Insurance companies and HMOs no longer ruled the roost! The market evolved!

The ERISA statute was born back in 1974 when Congress was blessed with a lot of forward thinking people like Senator Jacob Javits of New York and Congressman John Erlenborn, of Illinois, and a host of others who realized that employers cannot very well sponsor health and/or pension plans or other employee benefit plans if they had to readjust their rules and operations with each of the 50 states. Obviously, commerce needs to flow generally unimpeded over state lines and that surely includes employee health insurance programs operated by employers. The creators of ERISA were well aware of all this. Thus, the concept of pre-empting state laws which "related to" employer provided employee benefit

programs was born! Ahead of its time! Rep. John Dent (D-PA), the House floor manager of the ERISA bill, declared that the broad preemption provision was the "cornerstone" of the legislation.

Mr. Speaker, the ERISA statute has served the nation well in allowing employers to provide health insurance for their employees—especially for large and mid-sized employers! Professor of Law Sallyanne Payton says it well in her presentation to the Conference on Patient-Centered Health Care Reform at the University of Michigan Health Policy Forum held November 21, 1997. "These large employee benefit plans have been the driving forces behind most of the recent innovations in medical service delivery because, being unregulated, they have the power to create their own benefit packages and medical care delivery mechanisms. For example, despite the health policy community's enthusiasm for full-integrated closed-panel HMOs, the employee benefit plans responded to patient dissatisfaction and resistance by inventing the Preferred Provider Organization and have created a market for network-style managed care organizations of many different types. Self-insured employers have been aggressive in the current effort, through, for example, the National Council on Quality Assurance, to develop quality standards and measures and to redesign the quality oversight function."

However, as indicated, small employers who do not have the economies of size and who therefore cannot as easily "self insure", have never had the ability to take advantage of the ERISA statute in providing health insurance for their employees. These small employers, in order to secure health insurance for themselves and their employees, have to go into the small group insurance markets, controlled by health insurance companies or HMOs, who of course do not want new competition in this market. They didn't want it in the large employer insurance market either and were reluctant suitors of ERISA in 1974.

But anyone who has to go out into the small business group health insurance market or even the individual market—alone—knows that affordable health insurance can be difficult to find and even more difficult to hold onto if any chronic illness develops in the family.

Mr. Speaker, the existing "system" of health insurance relative to small employers and the self-employed, controlled by indemnity insurance companies and HMOs which are basically under state jurisdiction, has, in effect, anti-selected its purchasers of health care to the tune of 43 million people who cannot find accessible and affordable health care. It is the disgrace of the private health care system in America and it must change. And it can change by simply allowing small business employers and the self-employed to finally have precisely the same advantages long possessed by large and mid-sized employers. There is nothing so powerful as an idea whose time has come. The idea that small employers and the self-employed should be able to band together in bona fide professional, trade and business associations to give them the economies of scale of large businesses is an idea whose time has come. It

has been held off by fierce opposition of insurers and HMOs who simply fear the same competition they must daily face in the large business group health insurance market. The Association Health Plan provisions are an important and positive answer to the problems challenging the private health insurance market. Millions of the uninsured are hoping that AHPs will become law as a part of the Patient Protection Act of 1988.

I would now like to explain in more detail the rules governing association health plans included under Title I, Subtitle D, the Small Business Affordable Health Coverage Act of 1998.

In effect, the proposal implements a current law provision, which the Administration has failed to invoke, allowing legitimate association health plans (AHPs) to be treated under ERISA preemption in a manner similar to single employer health plans. Only ERISA "group health plans"—sponsored by legitimate associations, franchise networks, church plans, etc. are eligible to voluntarily apply for certification.

Association must be bona-fide. An association sponsor must demonstrate that it is established as a permanent entity with substantial purposes other than sponsoring an AHP, has the active support of its members, and collects dues from its members without conditioning such on the basis of the health status or claims experience of plan participants or on the basis of the member's participation in a group health plan.

AHPs will expand choice of coverage. To be certified, AHPs must allow plan participants to choose at least one option of fully-insured "health insurance coverage" offered by a health insurance issuer and may also offer non-fully-insured options—such as those found under the plans of large employers like CBS, Inc, the New York Times, the Washington Post Co., Gannett, Dow Jones Co., etc.—only if the plan meets strict solvency provisions.

AHPs will expand portability. Employees would be more likely to have true portability of coverage, since employees and the self-employed tend to stay in the same occupation or industry.

AHPs improve affordability. AHPs can better reach small businesses and the uninsured with more affordable and accessible health benefit options by removing regulatory barriers—plans are freed from costly state mandated benefits and given flexibility to offer coverage that employees want and employers can afford, including uniform benefits across state lines; plans can achieve administrative economies-of-scale and join with coalitions of other ERISA plans to negotiate more cost-effective and high quality services from providers and insurers; costs of coverage can be allocated to employers in a nondiscriminatory manner based on plan experience (an employer cannot be singled out for higher contributions just because they are in a particular type of business or have higher claims experience); in general, AHPs are nonprofit entities that can deliver more benefits for the contribution dollar by also improving cash flow and earning investment income on reserves.

AHPs are subject to consumer protections. AHPs are subject to strict sponsor eligibility, nondiscrimination, fiduciary, financial, reporting, disclosure, solvency and plan termination standards. Also, AHPs are already subject to the portability, preexisting condition, non-

discrimination, special enrollment, and renewability rules added to ERISA under HIPAA. AHPs offering options that are not fully-insured are subject to actuarial reporting, reserve, mandatory stop-loss insurance and mandatory solvency indemnification standards to ensure participants against loss of promised benefits. The standards are enforced by the states with a federal backup.

AHPs offer guaranteed coverage. AHPs must offer coverage to all employer and self-employed members and cannot condition coverage on the basis of employee health status, claims experience, or the risk of the employer's business. AHP sponsors must be established for at least 3 years for substantial purposes other than offering health insurance.

Subtitle D stops insurance fraud. The Department of Labor Inspector General testified that the enforcement provisions will help stop health insurance fraud perpetrated by "bogus unions" and other illegitimate operators by making legitimate association plans accountable and adding new civil and criminal tools to end fraudulent schemes.

Under Subtitle D, bona-fide Association Health Plans offering benefit options that do not consist solely of fully-insured health insurance coverage (i.e. self-insured options are available) will be subject to strict new solvency protections as follows.

An AHP must remain a qualified actuary on behalf of plan participants.

AHPs must maintain cash reserves sufficient for unearned contributions, benefit liabilities incurred but not yet satisfied and for which risk of loss has not been transferred, expected administrative costs, any other obligations and a margin for error recommended by the plan's qualified actuary. The reserves must be invested prudently and be liquid.

In addition to the cash reserves, AHPs must maintain capital surplus in an amount at least equal to \$2,000,000 reduced in accordance with a scale, to not less than \$500,000, based on the level of aggregate and specific stop loss insurance coverage provided under the plan.

AHPs must secure coverage from an insurer consisting of aggregate stop-loss insurance with an attachment point not greater than 125% of expected gross annual claims and specific stop-loss insurance with an attachment point of up to \$200,000 as recommended by the qualified actuary.

AHPs must also obtain non-cancelable and guaranteed renewable indemnification insurance. To prevent insolvency, the indemnification insurance would pay for any claims that a plan is unable to satisfy by reason of a termination of the plan.

To ensure that the indemnification insurance will always be available to pay all unpaid claims upon plan termination, AHPs are required to make annual payments to an AHP Account which would be used only in the unlikely event that a terminating plan is in need of funds to avoid a lapse of the required indemnification insurance. These solvency protections apply to AHPs in every state, whereas the solvency guaranty fund protection for fully-insured options by HMOs and Blue-Cross/Blue-Shield organizations are only available in six states and 25 states respectively.

To ensure that the solvency standards are uniform, negotiated rulemaking is used to receive the advice of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, the American

Academy of Actuaries, and other interested parties.

States would enforce the AHP solvency and other standards with a federal backup if the state of domicile of an AHP does not choose to enforce such standards. States will have more authority to put an end of health insurance fraud. If an entity cannot show that it is either licensed by the state or is certified as an AHP, then the state can shut down the entity. To the extent the entity flees a state's border, the Department of Labor is directed to assist the state to shut the entity down through new "cease and desist" authority. Illegal entities become subject to criminal penalties if they try to hide their operations.

IN TRIBUTE

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES H. TAYLOR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 28, 1998

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, it's said that tragedy can bring us together and result in stronger bonds than existed before. The tragic deaths of Officers Chestnut and Gibson have brought a most heartfelt expression of the appreciate we all have for the heroic efforts of not just Officers Chestnut and Gibson, but all of our law enforcement officers throughout the nation.

Sue Stover Gaither, a volunteer chaplain with the Asheville, North Carolina Police Department was asked to sing at the Department's Annual Awards Banquet. Sue asked her brother, Jim to write a song meaningful 'just for them.' Sue made a special effort through my office to share a recording of "Heroes in Blue," with the Chestnut and Gibson families; noting in her letter to the families, that while the title of the song is "Heroes in Blue," it was written and is performed in appreciation of all law enforcement officers, no matter what color their uniform or department in which they serve.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to share the lyrics of "Heroes in Blue," by Jim Stover.

HEROES IN BLUE

To the footsoldier faithfully pounding the beat

The one in the blue and one cruising the street

Laying your life on the line, protecting mine
There's always somebody who's breaking the rules

Thugs in the alley and drugs in the schools
In a war that never ends, you hold the line

Chorus: To every hero dressed in blue
Thank you all for everything you do
Each and everyday you risk your lives
And that makes you a hero in my eyes

And when we fail to acknowledge the good deeds you do

It may be that many are known to only a few
You keep the faith, you fight the fight
You teach the kids that right is right
Into the dark, you bring some light

Footsoldiers pounding, blue and whites
cruising

Good guys are winning, bad guys are losing
Almighty God is on your side!

Chorus: To every hero dressed in blue
Thank you all for everything you do
Each and everyday you risk your lives
And that makes you a hero . . .

Each and everyday you risk your lives
 And that makes you a hero
 And that makes you a hero
 And that makes you a hero in my eyes!

REGULATION OF DERIVATIVE PRODUCTS

HON. JAMES A. LEACH

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 1998

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, in the past fortnight, the Banking Committee has held two hearings on the regulation of over-the-counter markets in derivative and hybrid instruments. Bankers and businessmen, farmers and fund managers use these esoteric financial products, whose value derives from an underlying asset like a government bond or the income stream from a loan, to mitigate risk from changes in commodity prices or interest rates. Few Americans have ever come into contact with one of these instruments, but every American with a pension fund or money in a bank has been affected by them.

I scheduled the hearings in response to an unusual circumstance: three of the four government agencies which have responsibility for overseeing the derivatives market place—the Federal Reserve Board, the Treasury Department, the Securities and Exchange Commission—have come to the conclusion that the other principal regulator, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, has embarked on a regulatory path at odds with the U.S. national interest.

The Fed's, Treasury's and the SEC's concerns about a rogue regulator were touched off by a long and detailed request for public comment on OTC derivatives trading practices issued in May by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission. OTC derivatives have some characteristics of futures—like futures, they are used to manage risk—but the Congress has never defined them as such and, in 1992, directed the CFTC to exempt them from the Commodity Exchange Act, which the CFTC administers. Although the CFTC stated in its release that its questionnaire was merely a fact-finding exercise, to everyone else it had the potential of radically changing the existing laws and regulations with the unsettling prospect that existing contracts could be invalidated. To the market place, the CFTC inquiry had all the tell-tale signs of precipitating a regulatory regime that would cause a market currently dominated by American firms and under American law to go off shore.

The current laws and regulations that govern the trading on our futures exchanges and over-the-counter markets are a tissue of ambiguities and exceptions—a veritable elysian field for lawyers. It is not an exaggeration to say a unilateral CFTC change in the definition of a swap, which was clearly contemplated in its public comment request, could invalidate thousands of similar contracts held by banks and other financial institutions and businesses here and abroad, worth billions of dollars. Such a stroke would jolt the world's financial system and force our financial institutions to take this innovative and profitable business to a foreign location, whether it be London, Tokyo or the Caribbean.

For better or worse, the word "paradigm" has in recent years become one of Washing-

ton's most fashionable expressions. At the risk of contributing to its overuse, it would appear that the interagency dispute that has been revealed is reflective of two separate but overlapping paradigms, one stemming from perspectives grounded in a career in law, the other from careers rooted in finance and economics.

Chairman Born's paradigm, which involves a legalistic reading of the Commodity Exchange Act, has certain merit in the abstract. But in the real world of trading, a world shaped by history and legislative intent, world not frozen in footnotes, the economic paradigm should be considered the dominant one. Indeed, the extraordinarily original analysis Chairman Greenspan provided the Banking Committee last week amounts to an essay that should be required reading for every college economics student.

The Greenspan paradigm will not be found in any legal tome because it captures a dynamic and fast-evolving situation, whereas the legalistic Born paradigm, by its very nature, must look backward for precedent.

In brief, Chairman Greenspan argued that, as currently implemented, the Commodity Exchange Act was not an appropriate framework for professional trading of financial futures. The CEA, he noted, was enacted in 1936 primarily to curb price manipulation in grain markets and its objectives haven't changed since then. As a consequence, we are applying today crop-futures regulation to instruments for which it is wholly inappropriate. The Greenspan view is that the financial derivatives markets are encumbered with a regulatory structure devised for a wholly different economic process, a structure that impedes the efficiency of the market system and slows down improvement in living standards.

This is rich food for thought for Congress. The interagency regulatory Donnybrook is unseemly, generating market tension and uncertainty. It shows that our system may need a fix. If a single regulator can roil markets with an institutionally self-serving and whimsical reading of the law, it is time to have a good look not only at the statutes but at who enforces them.

The "who" and the "what" of regulation in this area must be revisited, with an understanding that it is more important for regulation to be adapted to markets than for markets to be hamstrung by regulation. A balance involving legal certitude, especially of contracts, must be established. This balance must be flexible enough to accommodate innovation, but also legally firm when it comes to issues like fraud.

Chairman Born's July 24 letter to Chairman Smith in which she states "the Commodity Futures Trading Commission . . . will not propose or issue" OTC derivative regulations until the Congress convenes in January 1999 momentarily muted the crisis. But, in effect, her offer isn't much of a concession. It is far short of the agreement Chairman Smith believed he had reached—and so said in a press release: "the CFTC will not pursue regulation of over-the-counter (OTC) derivatives until Congress has the opportunity to act during CFTC reauthorization in 1999."

It is my view that it would be preferable to resolve this dispute without legislation and, accordingly, I chaired two informal meetings with the regulators to attempt to reach a non-legislated solution. But given the impasse, I intro-

duced H.R. 4062, which provides a standstill on new regulation until the CFTC reauthorization is done. Work on this bill has been temporarily suspended to give everyone time for another effort at compromise. But if the Agricultural Committees don't address the issue, the bill remains on the table for consideration yet this year.

Meanwhile, I am asking the Secretary of the Treasury, in his capacity of chairman of the President's Working Group on Financial Markets, to undertake a study of our regulations and regulators. The industry, academic experts, and other interested parties, including users of derivative products, should be given a prominent voice in the study. The Treasury Secretary should provide the Group's findings and suggestions to the appropriate committees in the House and Senate by February 1, 1999, so that the Congress can get an early start on rebuilding our market supervision system. Nothing less than the primacy of the U.S. financial industry in the world is at stake—along with the safety and soundness of our banks and protection of their customers.

DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4194) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes:

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the motion to recommit offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. OBEY].

Under the version of the bill reported out of the Appropriations Committee, a legislative rider was attached which would prevent the CPSC from adopting a rule regarding flammability standards for upholstered furniture until an outside panel was convened to examine the toxicity of fire retardants that would be used to treat such furniture. Currently the CPSC is considering a flammability standard for upholstered furniture. They are doing so pursuant to a petition from the National Association of State Fire Marshals, who asked the CPSC more than four years ago to develop a mandatory safety standard for upholstered furniture to address the risk of fires started from open flames—such as lighters, matches, and candles. The Fire Marshals called for such a rule because the U.S. has one of the highest fire death rates in the world. Nearly 4,000 people died in 1995 because of fires that started in their homes, of which nearly 1,000 were children under the age of 15.

Over the last four years the CPSC has been going through the process of taking public comments, conducting laboratory tests, and evaluating all the technical and economic issues relating to adoption of a safety standard in this area, including requirements relating to use of flame resistant chemicals to treat

upholstered furniture. The CPSC staff has been working with scientists from other agencies, such as the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and the EPA to assure that all of the significant public health and safety issues associated with adoption of such a rule would be studied.

Now, the bill before us today contains a provision that would, in the words of CPSC Chairwoman Ann Brown, "completely halt work currently underway . . . on a safety regulation to address the risk of fire from upholstered furniture." According to Chairwoman Brown, "more fire deaths result from upholstered furniture than any other product under the CPSC's jurisdiction." The proposed rules in this area could save hundreds of lives and hundreds of millions in societal costs every year, according to CPSC staff estimates. And yet, instead of allowing the CPSC to proceed with its process, the legislative rider that has been attached to this bill would add at least a year's delay by requiring unnecessary and costly technical review and halting Commission work.

This anti-consumer rider will add additional cost and delays to an ongoing rulemaking process at the CPSC. It will micromanage the cost-benefit analysis that the CPSC is already required to undertake before it adopts a final rule. And it does so why? Well, according to last Friday's Washington Post, this provision is in the bill to benefit the narrow economic interests of a few upholstered furniture manufacturers in Mississippi who are opposed to a mandatory furniture flammability standard. As CPSC Chairwoman Brown has noted, the furniture industry's "lobbyists are bringing the proper work of government to a halt."

I think this is wrong. We should adopt the Motion to Recommit with Instructions that is being offered by the Gentleman from Wisconsin and allow the CPSC to move forward in conjunction with the EPA to adopt a flammability standard for upholstered furniture that fully protects the public from harm. The Clinton Administration has indicated in its Statement of Administration policy that it is opposed to this provision and warned that "efforts to block the development of a new safety standard represent a threat to public health." I agree, and I hope that the Members will support the Obey motion.

MR. STARR: END THE UNFAIR
LEAKS NOW

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 1998

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, Ken Starr's four year, \$40 million investigation of the President repeatedly has been plagued by leaks, some of which have been patently untrue. The leaking has become so intolerable that it now threatens the very integrity of the Independent Counsel's work. For this, Mr. Starr has no one to blame but himself.

From the very beginning of his investigation, it is now known, the Independent Counsel and his staff have actively courted the media. They have admitted talking to reporters on an off-the-record basis about matters that would be coming before the grand jury, and they discussed how to provide substantive information

to at least one journalist, who actually tape recorded that conversation. Meanwhile, as all of this was going on in the Independent Counsel's office, Mr. Starr was publicly and vigorously denying any such leaks. In fact, he said that leaks were a reason to fire people from their jobs in his office.

Leaking is not an inconsequential matter. It creates harm to the reputation of the individual who is the subject of the leak, and also to the Independent Counsel's ability to do his work. Mr. Starr is bound by law and ethical rules not to release grand jury information. That is because even the media focus that results from these leaks is enough to harm innocent people.

In January of this year, it was commonly assumed by the media and the general public that someone in the White House, almost certainly Deputy White House Counsel Bruce Lindsey, had participated in drafting the talking points supposedly given to Linda Tripp by Monica Lewinsky. These talking points were reputed to be the centerpiece of an obstruction of justice case that was being put together by the Independent Counsel. Speculation was rampant that Mr. Lindsey was headed toward a criminal indictment. But this speculation, fueled by off-the-record comments, has finally been laid to rest. We have now learned that Ms. Lewinsky apparently wrote the talking points herself without any participation by anyone in the White House.

In the instance of attorney Vernon Jordan, there were numerous leaks implying that he was at the center of a conspiracy to find Ms. Lewinsky a job in New York. He was repeatedly called before the grand jury, but now it is being reported that Mr. Jordan is not a target of the Independent Counsel's investigation. While the charges made about him have finally melted away, what about the damage to his reputation, which previously was based on his distinguished record of service to the Bar?

There are other examples, but hopefully we have seen the last of these improper leaks from the Independent Counsel's office.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 1998

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, July 22nd and Thursday, July 23rd, I was unavoidably absent and missed rollcall votes 316–334. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall 316—present (quorum call), rollcall 317—no, rollcall 318—no, rollcall 319—no, rollcall 320—yes, rollcall 321—no, rollcall 322—yes, rollcall 323—yes, rollcall 324—present (quorum call), rollcall 325—no, rollcall 326—no, rollcall 327—yes, rollcall 328—yes, rollcall 329—yes, rollcall 330—no, rollcall 331—no, rollcall 332—yes, rollcall 333—present (quorum call), and rollcall 334—yes.

IN HONOR OF UNITED AUTO
WORKERS LOCAL 1050

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 1998

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the important work of United Auto Workers Local 1050 as the chapter enters its fiftieth year in defending the rights of working men and women. Dedicated to the cause of forging an equitable partnership between labor and management, Local 1050 has played a formidable role in Cleveland's labor history and promises only to grow in influence as industry continues to expand.

Receiving its charter in 1948, Local Chapter 1050 has benefited from the far reaching vision of twelve presidents, beginning with the election of Fred Barbeck. Today, Don Slaughter continues Local 1050's tradition of strong leadership. The contributions of Mr. Barbeck and Mr. Slaughter, and all of those that have served Local 1050 so capably, demand respect. The United Auto Workers was, at its brave beginnings, a social movement, an institution that derived its energy from the mistreatment of the working class. The UAW undertook with courage the daunting task of providing representation to those who had no voice, refusing to yield in the face of injustice. It was men such as Fred Barbeck and Don Slaughter who led this fight. It was workers like the men and women of Local 1050 who had the courage to follow. All of the men and women at every level of Local 1050 share in the United Auto Worker's proud legacy.

Today, Local 1050 boasts a membership of 1,146 workers. With the recent addition of two New Auto Wheel Plants, membership in Local 1050 promises only to grow. Let us hope that, under the leadership of Mr. Slaughter, these newfound numbers will provide Local 1050 with the strength to effect greater change in the interests of its members.

My fellow colleagues, let us congratulate Local 1050 on the fiftieth anniversary of its charter. Let us hope that, with a sense of their own proud past, they will continue to show courage in protecting those who do not have a voice.

IN HONOR OF LEOPOLD THIBAUT

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 1998

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Leopold Thibault, a distinguished World War II veteran from Somerset, Massachusetts.

On June 26, 1945, Mr. Thibault was traveling on a bombardment raid to the island of Truk. His mission, along with 10 other servicemen, was to bomb a Japanese installation. Mr. Thibault was not originally scheduled to be part of that mission, but he flew an extra mission that day. The plane carrying the 11 servicemen, for reasons that are still unknown today, took a nose dive. "The aircraft came down, hit the runway, hit the airfield, burned and flipped over on its side and exploded," Mr. Thibault recalled.

Eight members of the crew died when the plane crashed. Mr. Thibault was blown out of the plane onto the runway and ran into the jungle. He was later rescued by Navy troops and brought to a Naval hospital. Mr. Thibault had second and third degree burns on his arms, back, and face. During the first few weeks that he was in the hospital, doctors did not know if he would survive. After he returned home to the states, it took Mr. Thibault about a year to recover from the injuries he received in the plane crash.

In addition to the Purple Heart, Mr. Thibault received other awards for his service to his country in World War II, including the Air Medal with Clusters, the Victory Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, American Theater Campaign/Asiatic Pacific Campaign Ribbons with three Battle Stars and the Presidential Unit Citation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to take a moment to join me in honoring Leopold Thibault for his patriotism, bravery, and courage while defending our great country.

IN TRIBUTE

SPEECH OF

HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 28, 1998

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I come here today to offer my condolences and prayers to the families of Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson. As I was walking here just a few moments ago, I stopped to speak to a retired Capitol Hill Police Officer. As we were discussing last week's tragic shooting, he said to me, "It could have been one of us." In many ways, I think that characterizes the mood on Capitol Hill right now. Many of us feel vulnerable today because, indeed, it could have been one of us.

The greatest gift one human being can give another is his life. Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson made the ultimate sacrifice not because they sought to be heroes, but because that was the type of men they were. In a moment of intense fear, of extreme panic that I pray most Americans will never know, Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson stood tall. They laid their lives down so that others would not have to.

Sadly, in my community on Staten Island, there is another hero in need of our prayers. Police Officer Gerard Carter is lying in a hospital bed right now with a bullet lodged in his brain. He is holding onto life with the faintest of grips, struggling to survive after being shot in the right temple two nights ago by a 17-year old, two-time murderer. Police Officer Carter was truly one of New York's Finest, a brave young man who stared danger in the face and sought to make a difference.

Sometimes we may forget the danger that our law enforcement officers face when they put on their uniforms, clip on their badges and take to the streets. They put themselves in harm's way so that we may be safe. I offer them our thanks, and to the families of Officer Chestnut, Detective Gibson and Police Officer Carter, I offer you our prayers.

TRIBUTE TO MEEK STALLING

HON. THOMAS M. BARRETT

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 1998

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate this opportunity to tell my colleagues about a proud American and a beloved Milwaukeean: Meek Gladney Stalling.

Meek Stalling was born on June 20, 1921. On that same day, in 1782, our nation chose the eagle as its symbol. Those who knew and loved Mr. Stalling will tell you that he had a lot in common with our national symbol.

Like the eagles that grace our nation's skies, Meek Stalling loved to fly. A year before Pearl Harbor, he joined the U.S. Army Air Corps and served as a Tuskegee Airman. Like other members of this historic unit, Mr. Stalling fought two wars; a life and death battle against the most formidable air force in Europe, and a moral struggle against racial prejudice at home. Meek Stalling served proudly through it all, and at the end of the war, he returned home with an honorable discharge.

Mr. Stalling's passion for flight continued in civilian life, as an active member of the Circle Masters Flying Club, the Milwaukee Public Schools Aviation Program, and the Jackie Robinson Aviation Program. He was also an accomplished airplane model builder, and his vigorous support for aviation won the recognition of NASA's Apollo Program and earned him the opportunity to accompany Milwaukee's 128th Air Refueling Group, during the Persian Gulf War.

Meek Stalling, like our nation's symbol, also represented some of America's best qualities. As a World War II veteran, he demonstrated the strength and passion for freedom that have always been our country's hallmarks, and as a pioneer in the desegregation of America's armed services, he envisioned a future where patriotism, not race, was an American soldier's guide.

Mr. Stalling also shared our country's firm foundation in faith. As a young man, he joined St. Mark A.M.E. Church in Duluth, Minnesota. When he moved to Milwaukee, in 1956, Mr. Stalling joined our community's St. Mark A.M.E. Church and began a long and distinguished service. He was a talented carpenter and volunteered his skills to ensure that the church buildings were always in good repair. He was one of St. Mark's oldest living Trustees.

Two of our nation's core values, family and community, were also central commitments for Meek Stalling. He loved Ruby, his wife of 42 years, deeply, and rejoiced with her in their son, Charles. Mr. Stalling was also an active community volunteer, serving as a Scoutmaster, a leader in several aviation related organizations, and as the unofficial sporting goods repair guru for the neighborhood's children.

Mr. Speaker, Meek Stalling passed away, this week. Though our community is diminished by his loss, I ask that my colleagues join me, his family, and friends, in celebrating the remarkable life of this man who truly symbolized America at its best.

DR. LUCILLE BANKS ROBINSON
MILLER

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 1998

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and mark the passing of Dr. Lucille Banks Robinson Miller.

Dr. Miller was born in the District of Columbia. She was the eldest of six daughters born to Deacon Edward Lewis and Deaconess Mary Lewis of the Metropolitan Baptist Church. As an adult, Dr. Miller became affiliated with Corinthian Baptist Church. Most recently, she was a member of the New Bethel Baptist Church. She was the devoted mother of three sons: Dr. Thomas Tipton, Arthur Robinson and Reginald Robinson.

Dr. Miller graduated from Armstrong Senior High School, the Just Nursing School, and Jennifer Business College. She also attended Howard University, where she majored in music and minored in psychology. Dr. Miller received an Honorary Doctorate from Virginia Seminary and College in 1983, and an Honorary Doctorate from the Washington Saturday College in 1996.

With a deep love for gospel music, she formed the Banks Seminary Choir in 1937. That group rapidly became one of the most successful youth choirs in the Washington area. Following this success, Dr. Miller founded the Paramount School of Music, one of the largest private schools in the area. She taught music for 38 years.

As she gained popularity among churches and ministers in the Washington area, Dr. Miller was called upon to be the Mistress of Ceremonies at area churches and for major gospel events. During this time she established friendships with renowned gospel artists of her time, including Mahalia Jackson, James Cleveland, Roberta Martin, Richard Smallwood, Donald Vails, and a host of others. She also held regular Sunday vesper services at various churches from the late 1950's to the 1970's.

Known for her colorful and inspirational style, Dr. Miller became a legend in her own time. It was this same personal style that led her to become Washington's premier gospel music radio personality. She started her radio career at Station WOOK. She also worked at WUST and WOL radio stations. In 1979, she joined the WYCB Family. Her radio career continued for more than 45 years. The spirit of Dr. Miller's WYCB programs—"The Early Dawn of Gospel Sound" and "The Hour of Love and Power"—radiated a family warmth. Her never-ending concern for senior citizens, youth and the religious community was always apparent.

During her career, Dr. Miller received over 600 awards and commendations and was received in an audience with Pope John Paul II at Vatican City in Rome, Italy. Two of her most cherished awards were her induction into the Thomas Dorsey Gospel Music Hall of Fame in 1996 and her induction into the Eta Beta Sorority Hall of Fame in 1996.

Her passion for helping others will always be remembered. She made sure that the children of her listeners had tuition and clothes for school, that families in need of food and shelter were provided for, and that the needs of

senior citizens were met. This was her legacy of compassion, touching the hearts and lives of hundreds of thousands.

Mr. Speaker, for her faithfulness, nobility of character and humbleness of spirit, I ask the Members in this chamber to join me in celebrating the marvelous legacy of Dr. Lucille Banks Robinson Miller.

ISSUES FACING YOUNG PEOPLE TODAY

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 1998

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to have printed in the RECORD these statements by high school students from my home State of Vermont, who were speaking at my recent town meeting on issues facing young people today. I am asking that you please insert these statements in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD as I believe that the views of these young people will benefit my colleagues

STATEMENT BY ERICA LEWIS AND DAN JOHNSON REGARDING DRUNK DRIVING

ERICA LEWIS: We would like to express a concern that is becoming a big issue with teen Vermonters today. Our concern is probably the same as many others: Teen driving under the influence of alcohol

Young adults are usually both inexperienced drivers as well as inexperienced drinkers. These two combined is a fatality waiting to happen. Alcohol, when consumed, decreases alertness, causes depression, nausea, unconsciousness, hangovers, and possible overdose, which could lead to death. We, as teenagers, should be aware of the serious risks that are involved when wrong choices are made and lives are at stake. Driving should be considered a privilege, not a right, for we all have the right to be safe while driving, and when alcohol is involved, no one can predict the outcome. Anyone of us here today could be driving down the road next week and, because of a drunk driver, never make it to where we were headed. Because of this increasing problem, there needs to be more awareness of alcohol and its effects. It is up to us, the younger generation, to make an impression on our peers and those that follow, and most of all to prove to our elders that we have what it takes to make the right decisions and follow through.

There is no overall solution to this problem, but we, as mature young adults, should make a strong effort to plan ahead before it gets to a point where it might be too late, whether that be make arrangements for a designated driver or staying until you are capable of driving.

DAN JOHNSON. A suggestion that we have and strongly agree with is a paper called a contract for life. It is an agreement between teenagers and their parents stating, if at any given time that either they feel incapable of driving, there will be transportation provided, and safe transportation for them. This contract was given to us from our drivers ed teachers at the Essex Technical Center. Other suggestions that we agree with is larger penalties for adults in furnishing alcohol for minors at stores to sell this. Teen drinking and driving will always be a problem, but, hopefully, with our help, we can reduce it. Thank you for our time.

CONGRESSMAN SANDERS. A very important contribution to this discussion. Thank very much.

STATEMENT BY BILL DOE, NICK BULLARD, MIKE CURRIER AND HEATHER DOLOFF REGARDING TEEN DRINKING AND DRUG USAGE SURVEY

BILL DOE: First of all, we would like to thank you for inviting us to this event today. And we would like to make a minor correction on the program guide. Our presentation is focused mainly on the alcohol abuse and not so much drug abuse.

In preparation for this presentation, we conducted a survey amongst our junior and senior peers. The topic of the survey was underage drinking. Some of our survey questions were as follows:

MIKE CURRIER: It goes: How old are you? Do you drink? If so, how often? Do you ever drink and drive, or ride with somebody who has been drinking? Why do you drink? To be rebellious; tastes good; to get rid of problems; to get wasted; and, a social drinker. The last question was: What do you think about lowering the drinking age?

HEATHER DOLOFF: And our results turned out to be most of the people who drank were age 18, 17, 16, and we had a few who were aged 19, and we did not take surveys from people under 16.

On the average, people drink and they tend to drink once or two times monthly, and a few do drink more than that, and we did have just under 20 people who we surveyed, out of a hundred, who did not drink at all.

And, overall, people don't drive when they have been drinking or don't ride with someone who has been drinking. Only about 30 people we surveyed said that they did, 10 said sometimes, and 60 said not at all, which is encouraging.

And the most common cause for people to drink was that they are a social drinker, which leads me to believe that peer pressure is playing a large role in it.

BILL DOE: We also found that many of the people that we interviewed or surveyed, actually, would have liked the drinking age to be lowered to 16. Now, I tend to think that was more of a case of not being mature, they want to go out and party and have a good time, and wouldn't be young enough to be able to do it legally.

In many countries, you will find the drinking age is very young, perhaps, I think, 16. And it has proven to actually work in many countries, I think only because it has kind of been found as, you know, it is just a given, that is what their society accepts, and they have grown to a certain maturity level that they can live with that.

If we were to, perhaps, lower the drinking age, I think we would have to do it gradually, perhaps like one year at a time, or lower it to like maybe 20 in five years, or 19 the next five years, gradually getting down to maybe 18, perhaps. And maybe then our society will be mature enough to handle it and perhaps be mature about it.

NICK BULLARD: As you can see from our graphs, we have done extensive work with certain questions dealing with underage drinking. In this year alone, the drinking problem in this state has risen greatly, with numerous deaths resulting. This is why the State is cracking down on underage drinking, from the special task force known as START Team to DUI teams. These peoples' only job is to control drinking and driving in Vermont. START concentrates only on underage drinking.

CONGRESSMAN SANDERS: Thanks very much.

STATEMENT BY ELIZABETH CARTIER, ANNE MITIGUY, JASON MAGNANI, ERIC MORAN, DANIELLE PEZZIMENTI AND TED DEMULDER REGARDING TEEN DRINKING

ELIZABETH CARTIER: Today we would like to express our concern about alcohol ad-

vertising and the effects it has on youth. Alcohol is the number one drug used among young people. Eight teenagers a day die due to alcohol-related accidents. About two-thirds of teenagers who drink say they can buy their own alcohol. It is said that one out of every 280 babies born today will die in an automobile accident that is alcohol related. Traffic accidents are the single greatest cause of death between the ages of 6 and 28. About 47 percent of these accidents are alcohol-related. 56 percent of students in grades 5 through 12 say that alcohol advertising encourages them to drink.

TED DEMULDER: We have a poster to illustrate underage drinking. There are 10 million underage drinkers in the United States. Of those 10 million, 4.4 million are binge drinkers, which means they have 5 drinks or more, and 1.7 million teens drink heavily on a regular basis.

JASON MAGNANI: Teenagers are known to be more susceptible to alcoholic advertising than adults. This is especially true when it comes to radio and television broadcasting. In June of 1996, the Seagrams America Company began running Crown Royal brand whiskey commercials in Corpus Christi, Texas. It featured a dog labeled Obedience School Graduate who was carrying a newspaper. Another dog labeled Valedictorian was carrying a bottle of Crown Royal. In this ad, Seagrams positioned liquor as an award for achievement.

When liquor ads started to run on television, public health groups and government officials reacted in an alarming way. They said that, by running liquor ads on television, they would be seen by young people and that sometimes they were deliberately targeted at young people. In November of '96, after the liquor ads came out, 26 members of Congress wrote to the Federal Communications Corporation, urging them to further investigate the liquor ads on television. They said that they did not want children to get an image of academic and athletic success, gained through drinking alcohol beverages.

ANNE MITIGUY: Consumer and public health groups scoff at alcohol ads that are aimed at teenagers. They say that beer is heavily advertised during televised sporting events. These are mostly watched by high school and college aged students. The Seagrams ads about the obedience dogs and the Budweiser frogs are designed to catch the eye of young viewers. The alcohol industry critics say that young people decide to sample alcohol because of peer pressure but that advertising reinforces their inner thoughts. The ads are mostly young, attractive and healthy-looking adults. Most of the time, you can't even really tell how old they are. They are drinking beer, and at the end of the commercial, one of them says "It just can't get much better than this." These ads don't show both sides. As they say, it might not get any better, but it can get a whole lot worse. This is a side that should be shown more often, but isn't.

TED DEMULDER: In flipping through two mainstream magazines for our collage, Newsweek and People, we came across various alcohol advertisements. The Barcardi ads shows an unrealistic view of what happens to people when they drink. The Absolut ads have become coffee book material for many teenagers that collect them. The slogan "Forget the rules and enjoy the wine" shows how irresponsible people are, and basically the companies are saying anyone can drink.

ERIC MORIN: Because alcohol ads are very glorified and intensified, more today than ever were before, they can be very harmful to our generation and generations to come. These ads exert constant and powerful pressure on today's youth. With more and more

kids exploring the Internet and the World-wide web there is a growing trend of advertising and promotional material. Oftentimes the corporations use such techniques as up-to-the-minute sports scores, games and contests to promote their type of alcohol. With all the advertising that is going on, there is a growing influence upon youth today. What the corporations have in mind is that, if they gear their ads towards young adults, they will start to drink at a younger age. Once they start to drink, soon the corporation will have a lifelong customer. Our main concern about ads today is that they are giving us an unrealistic view about what alcoholic beverages are and what they can do to you.

Congressman Sanders, after hearing this information, we leave it in your hands to make proposals to remedy this problem, such as placing more responsibility on the alcohol companies to direct their ads at older and more mature audiences, instituting stricter penalties to those who procure alcohol for teens, as well as those teens who try to purchase it, and initiating a stronger community involvement with alternatives to alcohol, such as rec centers, sports leagues, and school-related affairs.

CONGRESSMAN SANDERS: Excellent.

INTRODUCTION OF THE VIDEO COMPETITION AND CONSUMER CHOICE ACT OF 1998

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 1998

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join Telecommunications Subcommittee Chairman BILLY TAUZIN (R-LA) in introducing this bill today. The legislation we are proposing today will help to promote competition to our nation's cable monopolies and will help to provide consumer protection.

The legislation will promote greater competition to cable monopolies in a couple of important ways. First, the bill will expand program access rules to reflect the highly-concentrated nature of the current cable programming market and enable competitors to obtain the programming they need to compete effectively. Program access is a key provision that is the lifeblood of many of cable's fledgling competitors. The program access provisions are expanded to include all cable programming, not only programming that is from vertically-integrated programmers and delivered via satellite. Exclusive programming arrangements for incumbent operators may be permitted, but only by obtaining a public interest waiver from the FCC for such channels as locally-produced and locally-originated cable news channels, for example.

Second, the bill will establish a low-cost basic tier so that Direct Broadcast Satellite (DBS) consumers—or potential DBS customers—who today cannot receive local TV channels as part of a DBS service may obtain a lifeline basic tier over the cable wire. This will permit consumers to obtain their local channels in a way that will affordably complement their satellite service. Both the program access and low cost basic tier provisions will help to promote greater competition to cable monopolies. I also want to note at this point that I look forward to working with Chairman Tauzin on legislation that will allow satellite competitors to broadcast local TV sta-

tions back into local markets via satellite. Hopefully Congress can address that issue as well in the near future.

With respect to consumer price protections, the bill seeks to protect consumers by permitting local franchising authorities to certify that an incumbent cable monopoly is not offering consumers an acceptable range of choices and thereby retain FCC consumer price protections for an additional year. This does not mean that the bill is mandating a la carte cable offerings, but rather it means that we'd like to see a greater range of cable programming packages, or "mini-tiers," that cater to particular programming interests of consumers.

This approach also attempts to deal in part with the faulty premise of the FCC's so-called "going forward" rules, which went into effect in 1995 and reversed the good job the Commission had been doing up until that point and which has saved consumers approximately \$3 Billion. The premise of the Commission's rule change was that the cable monopolies needed an incentive to launch new cable programming channels. The new rules allowed for programming costs to be passed on to consumers, plus operators were allowed to charge an extra 20 cents per subscriber per month on top of that for each of up to 6 new channels. Cable operators responded by adding more channels and today claim the high cost of providing those channels as part of the rationale for why cable prices are increasing so drastically.

One obvious result of the FCC's adjustments to its rates is that too many cable consumers are paying excessive monopoly rents to cable operators who blissfully allow their programming units to let costs rise because the cable operator is allowed under the Commission's rules to simply pass these costs along to cable subscribers. No need to ask advertisers to shoulder part of the burden—all of it can go on the cable bills of many working Americans or those on fixed incomes. (Most American companies see their stock prices rise when they are able to announce that they are effectively controlling their costs. Cable companies gleefully see their stocks rise as they fail utterly to hold the line on their programming costs.)

Yet this failure to control programming costs also means that incumbent vertically-integrated programmers cannot only pass these inflated costs on to their customers, but also means that the costs borne by new entrants competing against them get inflated as well. These higher programming rates unnaturally inflate the costs of competitors attempting to take on the entrenched cable club. This is clearly anti-competitive.

In addition, the FCC's "going forward" rules also wound up forcing many consumers to pay more for programming that they have little to no interest of ever watching. The grievance of paying for unwanted programming on a 35-channel cable system is exacerbated when we move to a 60 or 80 or 100 channel universe. A more robust marketplace would help ensure that consumers would not have to pay for all of these unwanted channels and would more adequately reflect the programming demands and desires of different cable consumers.

But we do not have anything remotely close to a competitive cable marketplace today. And the current marketplace is so overwhelmingly concentrated in the hands of monopolies that

the cable club has little interest in catering to consumer choice.

That's why we are introducing this bill today. Chairman Tauzin and I have lived this cable odyssey together for many, many years. We are familiar with the industry—both its promise and its problems. And we are familiar with all of their tired arguments as to why rates keep going up and up even as inflation stays at near record lows. Chairman Tauzin has been driven in his pursuit of promoting cable competition and so have I. The legislation that Chairman Tauzin and I are proposing today will help address pending cable problems. It says that cable systems are deregulated on March 31, 1999 unless a local franchising authority certifies that the incumbent cable company does not offer an acceptable level of choices in the programming offered to consumers. This means that local franchising authorities can help ensure that consumers get additional, smaller programming packages and do not have to take all of the unwanted programming.

Right now, cable rates are rising multiple times the rate of inflation. The massive assault on cable markets that we had expected from the phone companies has not materialized and, except in a few scattered communities across the country, the phone industry has largely pulled back from plans to enter the market in a big way. And we have this deregulation date looming in March of next year. I want to applaud Chairman Tauzin for the leadership he is demonstrating in taking on this vitally important issue for consumers, for the economy and for innovation. And I am happy to be an original cosponsor of this proposal.

IN HONOR OF WILLIAM BOYD OWEN

HON. CHARLES H. TAYLOR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 1998

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. America is strong because of its millions of citizens who work hard and provide futures for themselves and their families. They build professions, businesses, jobs, and they build strong communities through endless hours of service.

It's my privilege today to recognize one of those individuals who has been a leader in his profession, his community, and a respected and revered father and grandfather, William Boyd Owen.

Born in Dellwood, North Carolina on August 16, 1918, W. Boyd Owen was the youngest of three physician brothers in a medical family which spans several generations and includes his son, William B. Owen Jr., a Haywood County, North Carolina orthopedic surgeon.

Boyd attended Canton, North Carolina public schools before entering Wake Forest College in Wake Forest, North Carolina where he displayed many talents. Young Boyd played basketball, and played the saxophone and clarinet with an orchestra while in college. In 1939, he played for Wake Forest in the very first post season NCAA basketball tournament. After graduation, he entered the Wake Forest Medical School, later transferring to the University of Pennsylvania Medical School where he earned his medical degree at the age of twenty-three.

Dr. Owen interned at Philadelphia General Hospital, then entered the United States Army Medical Corps in 1943. He remained in the medical corps until 1946, attaining the rank of major. He served in Hawaii, the United States and the Philippines, and after leaving active duty, he remained in the inactive reserves for six years.

In 1946, he opened a general medical practice in Waynesville. In 1947 he "covered" the Canton practice of his older brother Dr. Charles Owen. Meanwhile his own practice grew until he built the present Owen-Smith Clinic in 1954 after being joined by Dr. A. Heyward Smith. In 1962 he was elected to the North Carolina Board of Medical Examiners, serving for six years including the last year as president.

Dr. Owen's career has spanned the time period when he could not get a new car because of war-time conditions and he was paid with chickens and wood, to present-day medicine which utilizes computers, lasers and high-tech surgical procedures. He is a member and founding fellow of the American Academy of Family Practice, life member of the North Carolina Medical Society and the North Carolina Academy of Family Practitioners.

Dr. Owen has been a member of the Wake Forest Board of Trustees since 1954, longer than any living member. He served on the Trustee Athletic Committee as chairman and was also on the Executive Committee. In 1991, Dr. Owen was made a life trustee. For two decades he belonged to the Wake Forest President's Club, and he worked as class agent for several medical classes. Dr. Owen was president of the Bowman Gray Medical School Alumni and earned a citation for distinguished service. In 1989, he chaired the Medical Center Board which encompasses the Bowman Gray School of Medicine of Wake Forest and the North Carolina Baptist Hospital in Winston-Salem.

Active in the First Baptist Church of Waynesville, Dr. Owen has served as deacon, trustee and chaired a variety of committees. He has been a member and former president of the Lions Club, the Waynesville Chamber of Commerce, the "30 Club" and is now a member of the Rotary Club.

Dr. Owen recently retired after fifty-one years in active practice and resides in Waynesville. His wife of more than 50 years is the former Helen Bryan. Their four children are: Elizabeth Owen Taylor, William Boyd Owen, James Griffin Owen and Mary Owen Davis. All four children graduated from Wake Forest University as did his wife, Helen. Helen's father, D.B. Bryan, was Dean of Wake Forest College for 26 years. He is the proud grandfather of eleven grandchildren one of whom is now enrolled at Wake Forest University.

IN CELEBRATION OF AIRLINE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH'S
FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 1998

Mr. GREEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Airline United Methodist Church in Houston, Texas, on its 50th Anniversary. On

August 30th, Airline Church will celebrate fifty years of faith, love, and friendship. My family has attended Airline Church for many years now, and I want to personally thank the entire congregation for their fellowship and their contributions to our community.

In 1948, forty-four Houstonians gathered under the leadership and vision of Reverend C.E. Clark to form Airline United Methodist Church. Airline today has expanded from its humble beginnings in surplus Army barracks to become a multi-structure facility with a membership of 700 individuals. While Houston and the United States have changed dramatically in the past 50 years, Airline has remained true to its original mission: to be faithful to God and to provide for the spiritual, emotional, and physical needs of the community.

The strength and longevity of Airline United Methodist comes from its people, their faith, and the relationships they build within our church family. The United Methodist Women encourages its members to study how the Methodist Church is at work in the world and the United Methodist Men participate in several service projects. Planning for the future, Airline youth fellowship seeks to instill Christian values in our younger members in order to prepare them for the challenges that today's youth face.

Airline United Methodist Church believes that its mission extends beyond the membership to the entire community. In collaboration with other Houston food programs, the Society of St. Stephen's operates a food pantry and serves as a food distribution point. At Thanksgiving, Church members furnish meals to local families, and at Christmas, both children and adults provide presents and meals for families identified by the local school district and for children whose parents are incarcerated. Today, church members have established a multicultural program designed to reach out to a rapidly changing community and our church services are translated into Spanish. In recognition of its evangelism efforts, Airline United Methodist Church has twice been presented with the Copeland Evangelism Award by the Texas Annual Conference.

Airline United Methodist's 50th Anniversary is both a milestone and a beginning. This celebration provides us the opportunity to review what has been accomplished through faith in God and to look forward to all that lies ahead.

THE JUSTICE FOR ATOMIC
VETERANS ACT OF 1998—H.R. 4368

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 1998

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the Justice For Atomic Veterans Act of 1998. This legislation will grant a presumption of service-connection for illnesses which have been identified as being significantly or suggestively increased in persons who have been exposed to radiation risk activities to those men and women who, during the course of their military service, were subjected to unknown doses of radioactive material.

Under present law, veterans who engaged in radiation risk activities during military serv-

ice are entitled to a presumption of service-connection for some illnesses, but must prove causation by "dose reconstruction estimates" which many reputable scientists have found fatally flawed. By VA estimates, only about 50 veterans have been able to show the requisite reconstructed dose to establish service-connection.

It is certainly not these veterans who are responsible that accurate records of their exposure were not kept and maintained. In addition, many veterans have been unsuccessful in obtaining access to even the inadequate medical records relating to their exposure during military service. In some cases, records have reportedly been lost. In other cases, records of radiation-related activities were classified and not made available to the veterans seeking compensation. It is also well known that many veterans were not provided with adequate protection to the radiation exposures to which they were subjected during their military service.

Our atomic veterans were put in harm's way in service to our Nation. But our government failed to collect the data and provide the follow-up that would enable our atomic veterans to effectively pursue claims for the harms which resulted. I agree with the statement in the 1995 final report of the Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments:

When the nation exposes servicemen and women to hazardous substances, there is an obligation to keep appropriate records of both the exposures and the long-term medical outcomes.

We failed to keep the records of the exposures of our atomic veterans. They should not suffer for our neglect. Let us right the injustices visited on our atomic veterans since the days of World War II. Presumption of service-connection for illnesses which are likely to be due to radiation risk activity should be enacted. I thank the Members who have agreed to be original cosponsor of this legislation and urge all other Members to support this legislation.

TO DESIGNATE JULY 6TH AS
"PALOMAR MARKET DAY"

HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 1998

Mr. BILBRAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Mr. and Mrs. James Mellos, a couple in my district whose retirement symbolizes the end of an era.

Since May of 1927, the Mellos family has owned and operated the Palomar Market Liquor & Grocery store located at 1802 W. Washington Street in San Diego, California. Mr. James D. Mellos, his brother Mr. Louis Mellos, and his cousin Mr. George Antonopoulos, started this business which the family has successfully owned and operated for 71 years—through the Great Depression, World War II, the Korean and Vietnam Wars, and the Cold War. According to the Alcoholic Beverage Control, the Palomar Market has the unique recognition of holding the oldest off-sale liquor license in the State of California. Mr. James Mellos, Jr. worked at Palomar Market since he was nine years old, continuing a family tradition of serving the Mission Hills Community which lasted over four decades.

In addition to their success at business, James and Hellen Mellos raised three wonderful children. Their oldest son, James D. Mellos, III, has become a successful attorney and has opened up his own law office in Mission Hills. Their middle child, Peter L. Mellos, is completing his masters in Forensic Science and is anticipating attending law school with the goal of working in the San Diego District Attorney's office. Their youngest child, Stella K. Mellos, is currently a hard-working successful paralegal for the downtown San Diego Law Firm of Jeffrey E. Estes & Associates. Like her brothers, she plans to attend law school and become a practicing attorney in San Diego.

Since their children all found success in the field of law, Mr. and Mrs. Mellos decided to sell their store upon retirement and start new traditions. After much searching, Mr. and Mrs. Mellos found another family to take over the business who will continue the Mellos traditions of hard work and excellent service. On Monday, July 6, 1998, the Palomar Market opened under new ownership, bringing the era of the Mellos family business to a bittersweet end.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I hereby declare that hereafter, July 6th will be known to San Diegans as "Palomar Market Day" to commemorate this great piece of San Diego's history.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF H.R. 4276, DEPARTMENT OF
COMMERCE, JUSTICE, AND
STATE, THE JUDICIARY, AND RE-
LATED AGENCIES APPROPRIA-
TIONS ACT, FY 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 1998

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on the rule which will govern how we proceed on H.R. 4276, the Commerce, Justice, State Appropriations bill. I am grateful to the Rules Committee for allowing the Molohan amendment to be considered which would restore full funding for a fair and accurate census. The subject of the Census was addressed in Article I Section 2 of the Constitution of the United States as it states, "The actual Enumeration shall be made within three years after the first Meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent Term of Ten Years." With that goal in mind the Bureau of the Census conducted the first National Census in 1790. The census also places our population in a particular location as of census day so Congress can be reapportioned and the state and local governments redistricted while federal monies can be apportioned.

The ability to use sampling during the 2000 Census will insure that any undercounting which may occur in this census because of sparsely populated regions of states like Texas or hard to count urban populated areas like Houston, can be held to a minimum. Undercounting the results of the 2000 Census would negatively impact Texas' share of federal funds for block grants, housing, education, health, transportation and numerous other federally funded programs.

In 1990, the City of Houston was undercounted by 3.9 percent in that year's Census using the current "head count" method which only recorded 1,630,553 residents. Based on the sampling that was prepared for that Census, but never used it is estimated that over 66,000 Houstonians were missed by the 1990 Census.

African-Americans, Hispanics, Asians, and American Indians were missed at a much greater rate than whites. The 1990 Census undercounted approximately 4 Million people, about the same number who were counted all together in the first census 200 years ago. Even more troubling, this last census was, for the first time in history, less accurate than its predecessor. The undercount was 33 percent greater than the undercount in the 1980 census.

Mr. Chairman, I will be offering some amendments to this bill.

One of these amendments will increase funding to the Community Relations Service of The Department of Justice. As many of you may be aware, CRS is a Federal agency under the Department of Justice that helps local communities prevent and assuage community racial conflict and violence. CRS worked hard in my homestate of Texas during the aftermath of the recent tragic and brutal murder of Mr. James Byrd, Jr. in Jasper, and CRS was crucial in helping the community to begin healing during the Jasper aftermath and CRS has also been with us during recent rallies opposing the Ku Klux Klan. In fact, when racial conflict threatens peaceful community relations, CRS services are sought by mayors, police chiefs, school superintendents and civic leaders throughout our country.

During 1996 and 1997, more than 500 churches in 13 Southern States were burned or desecrated. CRS has been an integral partner in working with state and local officials in more than 190 communities throughout Texas and the south.

Unfortunately, due to the rise of racial conflict and hate crimes in our country, CRS was forced to decline more than 40% of the requests for assistance made during this year. Because of CRS' lack of adequate resources, CRS cannot respond to some communities who face even the most serious racial conflict and violence.

Currently, CRS operates its entire program with just 41 staff and a budget of just 5.3 million. Between 1992 and 1997, CRS' budget declined more than 80% and its staffing by two thirds, an all time low. My amendment will increase funding to CRS by 2.2 million dollars and will allow CRS to further assist all of our communities in working towards eliminating racial intolerance and conflict throughout America.

The other amendment, that I may offer, is to protect our children from the dangers of handguns by requiring every handgun purchased in this country to have a child protective lock device.

It is a great tragedy that children are accidentally hurt and killed across our country, simply because their parents guns are accessible to their curious hands.

The addition of a handgun lock will allow responsible citizens to obtain guns, however it will not allow those guns to be accidentally fired by a family or neighborhood child who discovers the weapon.

LEGACY OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN

HON. JOHN M. SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 31, 1998

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, on August 3, 1846, Abraham Lincoln was elected to the United States House of Representatives from Illinois' 13th Congressional District winning eight of the eleven counties in his district and capturing 56% of the vote against candidates from the Democrat and Liberty parties.

Today, my honorable colleague RAY LAHOOD and I share what was the Lincoln district. Ray has nine of the counties and I have two including the city of Springfield where Mr. Lincoln lived and was subsequently buried.

Ray and I have a friendly struggle about possession of the Lincoln District. In essence it doesn't really belong to either of us but rather to the people we represent. But the legacy of Abraham Lincoln belongs to us all.

DISAPPROVING EXTENSION OF
WAIVER AUTHORITY WITH RE-
SPECT TO VIETNAM

SPEECH OF

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 1998

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.J. Res. 120, a resolution to disapprove the President's request for a waiver of Jackson-Vanik for Vietnam. The purpose of this Presidential waiver is to allow U.S. companies to receive U.S. government support for trade and investment in Vietnam.

I have the highest regard for Ambassador Pete Peterson and am confident that he will be a force for improving human rights in Vietnam. I have supported the normalization of relations with Vietnam and am blessed to have a strong Vietnamese-American community in my district. This community is not unanimous whether or not Jackson-Vanik should be waived. They are unanimous, however, about concerns regarding the continuing lack of freedom of emigration from Vietnam or about continuing human rights abuses there.

If the Vietnamese government allowed freedom of emigration, the President would not have needed to request a waiver of the Jackson-Vanik law in the first place. Some progress in freedom of emigration is reportedly being made, but serious problems remain.

The Vietnamese government has made some progress with people in the U.S. refugee program, Resettlement Opportunities for Vietnamese Refugees (ROVR), clearing 12,000 ROVR applicants—about 3000 per month for four months—immediately before President Clinton granted the waiver in March. Unfortunately, as soon as the waiver was granted, the approvals slowed back to a trickle—about 300 per month. There are reportedly still 4000 people we haven't been given permission to interview, including some of the most compelling cases. And, while Hanoi recently eliminated an important obstacle to U.S. access to people in ROVR, deeming that ROVR applicants will no longer need "exit permits" from local security police in order to be interviewed by U.S. refugee officers, the U.S. is unfortunately still forbidden to interview anyone whose name is not

on a list supplied by the Vietnamese government.

Problems remain in the Orderly Departure Program (ODP), too. ODP is a refugee program for re-education camp survivors, former U.S. government employees, and others who never left Vietnam. Thousands of people who qualify under this program have been unable to get exit permits—in some cases because the Vietnamese government does not like their political views.

I am also concerned about continuing human rights abuses in Vietnam. While the Vietnamese government continues to insist that it has no political or religious prisoners, we continue to receive reports of imprisoned Catholic priests, Buddhist monks, pro-democracy activists, and others, some of whom are imprisoned for crimes such as “using freedom and democracy to injure the national unity.”

Mr. Speaker, I understand the desire of the government of Vietnam to enter more fully into

the global marketplace, as I understand the desire of U.S. corporations to obtain U.S. government guarantees and assistance for doing business in Vietnam. I also understand the yearnings of people who seek to be free. I urge my colleagues to vote yes on this resolution to signal to the government of Vietnam that more must be done to promote freedom there